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HALIBURTON COUNTY'S INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

The Highlander

FREE

Thursday **Dec 4 2014** | Issue 163

INSIDE: BRENT DEVOLIN INSTALLED AS REEVE OF MINDEN HILLS - SEE PAGE 3

Minden man charged in child murders

By Mark Arike
 Staff writer

A 67-year-old man charged with the murders of two young B.C. girls in the 1970s was living in Minden, a source has told The Highlander.

On Nov. 28, Garry Taylor Handlen was arrested by police in Surrey, B.C. without incident and charged by the RCMP with first-degree murder in the deaths of Monica Jack, 12, and Kathryn-Mary Herbert, 11.

The source, who wished to remain unidentified, confirmed that Handlen had been living in a home on Anson Street.

"He was in Ontario at least on the 27th," said the source, who has engaged in conversations with Handlen in the past.

Haliburton Highlands OPP also confirmed that he had at one time resided in Minden.

According to a press release from the RCMP in B.C., Herbert disappeared on Sept. 24, 1975, while heading to her home in Abbotsford. Her remains were discovered two months later in an undeveloped area.

On May 6, 1978, Jack was riding her bike on the highway near the Nicola Ranch in Merritt, B.C. when she vanished. Her bike was discovered a day later, but it took another 17 years before her body was located in a rural area, about six kilometres from the highway that she was travelling along.

She was just 13 days shy of her 13th birthday.

A longtime friend of Handlen's and local resident, Lyn Winans, said she was shocked to hear the news.

"The recent news regarding Garry Handlen's arrest was as much a surprise to me as it was to anyone," wrote Winans in an email to the paper. "These hideous acts of cruelty highlight a side of Garry that was unknown to me and many others. At this time I have no further comment concerning this matter except to express condolences to those mothers who had to wait so long for justice."



Submitted by the RCMP / File photo

Garry Handlen is pictured above in the 1970s, compared to The Highlander's file photo from April 2013.

At a press conference in Surrey, the mothers of both victims expressed their relief upon hearing that an arrest had been made in both cold cases.

"To hear about this on Friday gave my family and I mixed feelings of happiness," said Jack's mother Madeline Lanaro.

Lanaro said the pain she and her family have endured over the years never goes away.

"I don't know how to explain it," she said, wiping tears from her eyes.

For nearly four decades, Herbert's mother,

Shari Greer, said she never gave up fighting for justice for her daughter.

"This is a moment I have waited for for 39 years," said Greer. "Finally it's here."

Both parents have asked the media to respect their privacy at this time.

According to a CBC News article, Handlen is a convicted rapist. In 1978, he picked up a hitchhiker near port Hope, B.C. and sexually assaulted the woman, who managed to escape and was picked up by a passing motorist. He was sentenced to 18 years, but on appeal that sentence was

reduced to 12 years.

Other convictions include indecent assault in 1969, rape in 1971, and assault with intent to rape in 1978.

Over the past three decades, investigative efforts have been led by Project E-PANA and the Provincial Unsolved Homicide Unit.

Handlen will remain in custody and appear in Abbotsford Provincial Court on Dec. 8.

Anyone with information on Handlen or either case is asked to call the RCMP's tip line at 1-877-543-4822.

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Highlander news

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New CBO Rogers joins Algonquin Highlands

By Lisa Harrison
 Contributing writer

It was happenstance that David Rogers became a building official. Or was it?

The new chief building official and bylaw enforcement officer for Algonquin Highlands says he first applied to become a building official in 1998 simply because "it was a job that became available," only to discover he loved the work.

"The job's different every day," says Rogers. "There's never the same thing twice. You meet great people."

Rogers served as a building official for Anson, Hindon and Minden (prior to the Minden Hills amalgamation) from 1998 until 2001. He then moved to what is now known as Trent Hills until September of this year. When the Algonquin Highlands chief's role was posted, he applied for it and

assumed the role in October.

Rogers and his wife of 30 years moved to Campbellford while he worked for Trent Hills, and he says they're happy to return to Minden.

"This is home," he said.

His daily routine begins with his arrival at the North Shore Road municipal office just after 7:30 a.m. The department's wide range of duties include doing building plans reviews, issuing building permits, doing building inspections, and following up on building inspections.

The department is also involved in bylaw complaints, following up and clearing bylaw complaints, and general work with the public. They help with planning, minor variance applications, and working closely with the clerk.

The work flow varies, says Rogers.

"It's like a lot of jobs. There are days when you're running steady and other days where you get a chance to catch up."

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Highlander news

New reeve optimistic about Minden's future

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

With office space in the municipal building and his first inaugural council meeting under his belt, new Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin is ready to tackle the future of the township.

On Dec. 1 Devolin appointed councillors to the various portfolios, and this past Wednesday council participated in an orientation session to become acquainted with department heads and engage in a variety of discussions.

Shortly after defeating former reeve Barb Reid in a landslide election victory on Oct. 27, Devolin said he became ill with the flu and was run down after campaigning for nearly 300 days.

"I was a couple of weeks, physically and mentally getting back to where I wanted to be," he said in an interview on Dec. 2, adding that he knocked on somewhere between 700-1,000 doors. "I was just worn out."

In preparation of the upcoming term, Devolin said he began speaking to others who were elected, previous members of council and other municipal politicians in the county. He also did "a lot of reading" when it came to the province's Municipal Act.

This coming Monday he will participate in a similar orientation session as a member of county council.

"By next week the picture will begin to come in focus because most of the comments I've had regarding most things are third party comments," he said. "Previous members of council and staff couldn't legally have those conversations

with me [before I was sworn in]."

In his first year as reeve, Devolin plans on learning a lot from staff and his fellow councillors.

"There's a lot to be learned from outside, but there's certain things you can't learn until you're inside."

One of his first priorities is to ensure councillors are comfortable with the portfolios they have been appointed to. He then wants council to examine the roles of each advisory committee and give the public the opportunity to once again chair those committees if they have the necessary skills to do so.

"There are members of the public that have expertise that eclipses any of us that are on council, so I think there may be some members of the public ... that may indeed chair some of those things like had been done in the past."

Devolin pointed out that there are currently 15-20 advisory committees, and that council will have to look at whether they are all needed or if some could be amalgamated. Sometime in January, a call will go to the public seeking those who are interested in volunteering for these positions.

Then there are some "big capital items" to deal with.

"I think we need to begin to look seriously at the arena and the community centre," he explained. "We need to look at the fire hall."

Devolin said the township needs to ensure it's adequately prepared for this summer's 2015 Pan Am Games, which will feature two days of white water canoeing and kayaking at the Minden Wild Water Preserve in July.

"What have we done? What do we still need to do? What's the cost of those things?"



Photo by Mark Arike

Minden Hills Reeve Brent Devolin stands outside the door of his new office at the administration building on Milne Street.

One of the pillars of his campaign, he said, was openness and accountability. In order to help achieve that, he intends on live streaming council meetings.

"I think that the public's ability to see live or out of a video database what we're actually doing there is most helpful. It will help them understand why we make decisions and what our logic is."

He noted that a majority of ratepayers are seasonal residents who can't attend council meetings in person.

The full-time Minden resident, who retired from his job at Ridgewood Ford in June to

pursue the reeve's seat, wants to spend a lot of time at the municipal building on Milne Street. He would like to open his office doors to the public two days per week in the new year to meet with members of the public.

"To get started, I would like to actually talk and meet people. I would like the public to get in the habit of coming here to see me," he said.

The future for Minden Hills, said Devolin, is bright.

"I think there are a lot of neat things that are going to happen in 2015."

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Editorial opinion

Looking ahead

Three of five local councils have been sworn in and are ready to start their terms: Dysart et al, Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands. Next week, the Highlands East and county council inaugurations take place.

The first step for new councillors is to get familiar with the rules and procedures, meet staff, and get situated on committees. Members of each community will also need to adapt to dealing with their new representatives.

Naturally, in light of the last four years, all eyes are on Minden Hills.

In October, Brent Devolin ousted Barb Reid in a three-way election. He ran on a promise to give the township back to the community, tapping into widely-held sentiment that the former reeve had been autocratic, among other things. Already he's committed to placing Minden residents back in charge of the advisory committees – Reid and the Vision Team had put councillors in charge of each committee at the beginning of their term. It was a controversial move at the time, and Devolin should win points if he can follow through with the reversal.

Devolin, and his deputy-reeve Cheryl Murdoch, have both called out to the community in an effort to rebuild a devastated volunteer base in Minden.

More than anything, the duo promise to make Minden proud again.

But it's not all about nice words and mending fences in Minden. Devolin has some tough decisions to make, particularly with the looming OPP billing increase. It will be his first true test as reeve, and it will be interesting to see how well he understands the issue and can lead council and staff to balance the books without putting too much of the burden on ratepayers.

He has also inherited the Pan Am games next summer. Many decisions still need to be made in planning for the event. Devolin said

in an interview with The Highlander that he needs to find out quickly where things are at, and where they need to go.

It's hard to imagine a more challenging first six months for a new reeve. If Devolin can handle the pressure – and Minden voters believe he can – then this could mark the start of a very successful term and a renaissance in Minden Hills.

Nowhere else in the county is the story so interesting.

While Dysart et al council saw significant changes in its ranks – a new deputy reeve and three new councillors – Murray Fearrey remains at the helm and will already have his council on course. During the election he said his priorities this term would be economic development, road improvements, septic inspections and affordable housing.

He also said it would be important to start the second phase of the industrial park in Haliburton, where 200 people are currently employed.

Algonquin Highlands and Highlands East are each welcoming only one new councillor to their respective tables.

Though it's an exciting time in the county, and a challenging one too, it will likely be business as usual everywhere but Minden Hills. That may be a disappointment to those who wanted wider change among our political leadership. To others, it will be comforting to have some familiar faces in charge for the next four years. In a tumultuous world, a little bit of stability, or even predictability, can sometimes be very welcome.

Just ask the voters in Minden Hills.



By Matthew Desrosiers

Time is up on parking meters

You can't help but laugh at the red, Christmas-themed bags currently draped over the parking meters in Haliburton.

Information on the Dysart et al website says: "The Pay and Display units as well as metered parking is suspended from November 11 to the second week of January during the holiday shopping season."

What might seem a jolly good idea on the surface is in fact a really mixed up message, not just during the holiday season, but behind the entire premise of actually having parking meters in a tiny, revenue-sensitive tourist town like Haliburton.

The idea of the bags, of course, is a congenial gesture on behalf of the municipality to encourage people to shop locally during the economically-vital Christmas season. Fair enough. But it's what it says about the rest of the year that I have an issue with.

The logic behind the original idea may seem to make sense on the surface – make money from parking fees and fines for most of the year (including the busy summer season) and let the peasants and visitors have an eight-week, fee-free vacation during a time when cash is so very vital – but in reality it's just selective targeting.

I would have more respect for the bylaw if there actually wasn't a blackout period. Revenue is revenue is revenue. You either want it all or you don't and, in my mind, even the mere idea of parking meters in a town continually struggling to develop year-round traffic blatantly sends the wrong message.

Look at the summer visitors to this area. Some poor Joe drags his family to town for groceries, bait and tackle or a meal out on the town, and he not only has to scramble to find parking, but also has to pay the parking fee. And, if he doesn't make it back to his vehicle in time, now faces the dreaded parking fine. People leave the city to escape this kind of thing.

I know the arguments. The parking meters generate revenue. Yes, but they also generate ill will. Said family just spent \$200 on groceries but now gets the tasty cherry -on-top parking fine because he's 22 minutes late getting back to his vehicle.

And the argument that parking fees and fines are minimal doesn't hold water, either. If that's the case then why do it in the first place?

Ultimately it all comes down to respect, understanding, and empathy for the customer, and a real appreciation of who we are and the message we're trying to convey.

I understand that it's presently the devil we have to deal with, but serious consideration has to be put into our long term goals – mainly the long term goal of phasing out the parking meters.

It's not what the parking meters do, it's what they say. We're either an area that prefers to have the dollars in the stores or the dimes in the meters. But you can't have it both ways.



By Charlie Teljeur

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THE HIGHLANDER'S MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County
each week

To be a source of information and inspiration
through stories and ideas

To report on issues, people and events
important to the community

To reflect and promote pride in the culture,
people and landscape of The Highlands

To encourage Highlanders to believe in
themselves, in our community, and in their
power to make our place in the
world better every day.

Letters to the editor

Thank you local papers

Dear editor,

I was recently reading a study done by Newspapers Canada (2011) to help them understand the differences between rural and urban markets (Newspapers Work: Shopping Habits of Rural and Urban Canadians). Rural markets were defined as those with populations of 10,000 and under. Urban markets were those with populations of over 100,000.

Rural Canada is home to seven million people! Newspapers reach rural neighborhoods that, in some cases, cannot be reached successfully with any other media. The study showed that rural Canadians rely on newspapers as key sources for information on many sectors (grocers, financial services, hardware/home improvement, home electronics, health care products and services, travel and more). Consumers had indicated that newspaper ads were perceived to be current, credible and relevant.

This should not be news to us here in Haliburton County. We all rely on our local newspapers to report relevant local events, information and stories. We know the individuals who write the columns and report the news. We sit next to the editors and publishers in the coffee shop. We consider them one of us. We count on the newspapers to advertise our services and jobs, to reflect our rural values and ideals, to present various sides of any issue.

SIRCH has been very blessed to have the support of the local newspapers in our Gifts from the Heart campaign (and frankly in every fundraising effort and new program we undertake). Much of the success of our campaign can be laid at the door of the local newspapers, and their dedicated staff. On behalf of all of us at SIRCH I want to say a heartfelt and sincere thank you!

Gena Robertson
Executive Director, SIRCH

Fond farewell from Village Donuts

Dear editor,

Early in life I was taught that it is important to give credit where credit is due. As an employer and business owner, the realization of the truth in this lesson became clear. After closing Village Court Donuts I had time to think about all of the happenings in the past few months and need to again, give credit and express how grateful I truly am. Angelica and Mark, staff reporters from The Haliburton County Echo and The Highlander; your articles in response to Village Court Donuts closing were perfect. Thank you for your accuracy and truth, as well as for your time. Hugh, I could not be dealing with the business closure without your continued support and guidance. To the “Donut Shop” staff, please realize I could not have done it without you and wish you all the best in any future endeavours. Carl, I am thankful for your kind words, advice and the Facebook

post, which was responsible for a big part of the generosity and flood of love, kindness and support that helped me through what proved to be a very hard week. Adam, Ryan and Johnny, the clean out of the restaurant would have been impossible without your help, I am very thankful for all of your time and efforts. Jim and Bernice, you are my angels! To my parents, thank you and I love you, couldn’t have done any of it without you. Lastly, once again thank you to each and every customer who showed me their support over the years. You have become the best friends and family anyone could ever ask for. In the weeks prior to the close, whether through moral support, expression of understanding or pure generosity, the love I received will have impact on me for the rest of my life.

Thank you!

Shannon Cole
Village Court Donuts

Cold comfort

And so winter in all of its glistening white glory is descending upon us, here in our rural idyll. But many folks here don’t seem too ‘chuffed’, as a mate of mine from back in Blighty would say.

That first blast of snow, a couple of weeks back, had Haliburtonians scrambling for shovels and snow tires, didn’t it? Mid November and up to two feet of the white stuff already laid down! Crikey blimey, we’re in for a long one, thought many. But then the rains came and the grass was green again, both figuratively, for those who hate the snow, and quite literally. It was as if spring had sprung in double quick time, but really we all knew that eventually the warmth would fade and the thermal underwear would make a reappearance. And this time it would be staying on.

Actually, I’m told by a friend of mine that the longer you wear a pair of long johns, the warmer they get. Don’t know if I totally agree, but I’m into my sixth day and they certainly are warm. The dog and my lovely wife have started to give me a

wide berth, though.

Crusty underwear aside... Always the best place for it. Well, there or in the wood stove. The same fellow who told me to wear it constantly says it makes for great burning when you can take it no longer! Sorry, crusty underwear aside, I think, even as a non-betting man, I’m safe in waging that winter has arrived good and proper now. As I write this missive the snowflakes are softly fluttering to the ground and my garden is turning into the wintery paradise that my family and friends back in Blighty are so jealous of.

Yes, that’s right. They’re jealous. I actually send photographs to taunt them, especially my nephews, whom I tell with great earnest that Santa lives just down the road. I send snapshots of the garden, Little Z bundled into his snow suit, in mid slide down our makeshift mini luge run. I snap images of snow covered spruce trees and frozen lakes, tell tales of snowshoeing and sledding, and skiing through crisp frozen forests on bright cold days.

And you know what? They lap it up. They

Photo of the week



Photo by Lisa Harrison

The county’s beaches are quiet now that the snow has rolled in.

Reader grateful for assistance

Dear editor,

I’d like to thank all the people who helped me out after my car had a close encounter of the worst kind with a large tree on Glamorgan Road last night (Nov 24).

First and foremost are Rachel and Mark from Eagle Lake who called 911, got my car off the road, and then drove my dog and me home, a 45-minute round trip opposite to the direction they were going.

Next, the fire crews who cut the tree and

moved it off the road and Chris, who made sure I was okay and gave me a seat.

Finally, my neighbor Paul (who drove me back to the car in the morning) and Kevin the CAA tow truck driver put the finishing touches on a bad situation made good through great people.

Thanks again to all.

Sally Kenerson
Gooderham

The Outsider



By Will Jones

shoveling and slippery roads, we should perhaps not moan about it too much.

There is lots to be said for our beautiful, ice encrusted wilderness, and all of the fantastic activities that folks in the Highlands get up to in the depths of our coldest season. I, for one, will be enjoying winter, even as I clap my gloves together to get the circulation going in my hands, because I’ll be thinking of my family enduring a long, wet, miserable cold season back in Blighty. So, chin up my Canadian friends. Dress up in many layers (making sure not to change those long johns too often), quicken that step, stamp those feet and march bravely and happily into winter, knowing that elsewhere it is definitely not as much fun.

That said, if you have extended family living in the Caribbean you can just go ahead and be downright miserable, probably as they send you pictures of Santa on a beach wearing speedos!

believe every word, even as they look at the pictures of my backyard with a mere two inches of snow carpeting it. How would they know any different? Why should they not trust their uncle/son/brother who lives in the Great White North? Why should they suspect me of exaggerating somewhat, of massaging the truth, all in the name of a bit of one upmanship?

In my defence, I will be doing almost all of these things at some point in our long and frigid winter, and, on the flip side, I see my little snow white lies as a way of cheering my family and friends who are trapped on that little island across the Pond. You see, at the moment they are also drifting into winter but, while we see everything coated icing sugar white, they are huddling up against the damp chill that comes with December rain, the bitter winds that drive the cold deep into your bones, and the grey, leaden skies that seem to perpetuate for weeks at a time.

And that, I suppose, is what I’m getting at. While we all know that winter is here, and that it’s going to mean icy temperatures, snow

Highlander opinion

Eye on the street: *Are you shopping online or staying local?*



Bob Stinson
Haliburton

I certainly do shop locally and have never made a purchase online. If we support our local economy then it helps us all.

Doris Pierson
Haliburton

I will always try and shop locally whenever I can. Shopping locally is definitely my first priority.



Joan Stinson
Haliburton

I always try and shop local as my first effort. This certainly helps the merchants and that in turn helps everyone here.



Rick Grieves
Haliburton

Trying to shop local is the best way. I feel better and it helps the business people. By the time you go out of town to shop you lose in the long run.



Steve Dunec
Haliburton

Is that a trick question? We can do both for those that want to shop online. You can easily shop online with many of our local stores and still support our local economy.

Photos and interviews by Walt Griffin

Good ideas came from election, councillors say

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

A new term of office has officially begun in Dysart et al.

On Dec. 1, three new members of council joined four familiar faces from the previous term during the inaugural meeting held in the municipal building's council chambers.

Re-elected Reeve Murray Fearrey welcomed members of the public to the swearing-in ceremony, which he called "the biggest crowd we've had in many years at an inaugural meeting." He pointed out that although the municipality uses a ward system, each councillor is part of one team that must work together.

"The reality is that we're all Dysart councillors, and the decisions we make are for the entire municipality," said Fearrey.

He said the municipality will always face challenges, including old and new ones. Some of the most pressing matters, he said, include roads, and issues related to landfills and septage.

"In the years that I've been involved in municipal council, the decisions that had been the most troublesome are those that were made in haste and without enough information," he said.

Fearrey said that during the past election,

several suggestions came forward on how jobs could be created and the economic base improved. All of these ideas will be considered going forward, he said.

"As a community and a council, we will welcome these suggestions and work with these individuals and develop a strategy that will move us forward."

Following Fearrey's speech, councillors took the declaration of office from municipal clerk Cheryl Coulson and shared a few words with the public.

Newly-elected Deputy-reeve Andrea Roberts spoke with optimism about the future.

"I'm really excited about some of the ideas that came forward in the campaign and want to see them come to fruition in the next four years," said Roberts, who previously served as Ward 1 councillor.

New Ward 1 councillor Nancy-Wood Roberts, who defeated Bill Davis for the seat, said she enjoyed going door-to-door during the campaign to meet her constituents.

"It was a real experience and you learn a lot when you're talking to people on their doorstep," she said, adding that "the lines of communication are always open."

A former councillor two terms ago, Derek Knowles is back at the table as the representative for Ward 2. He called this particular term of council "really important."

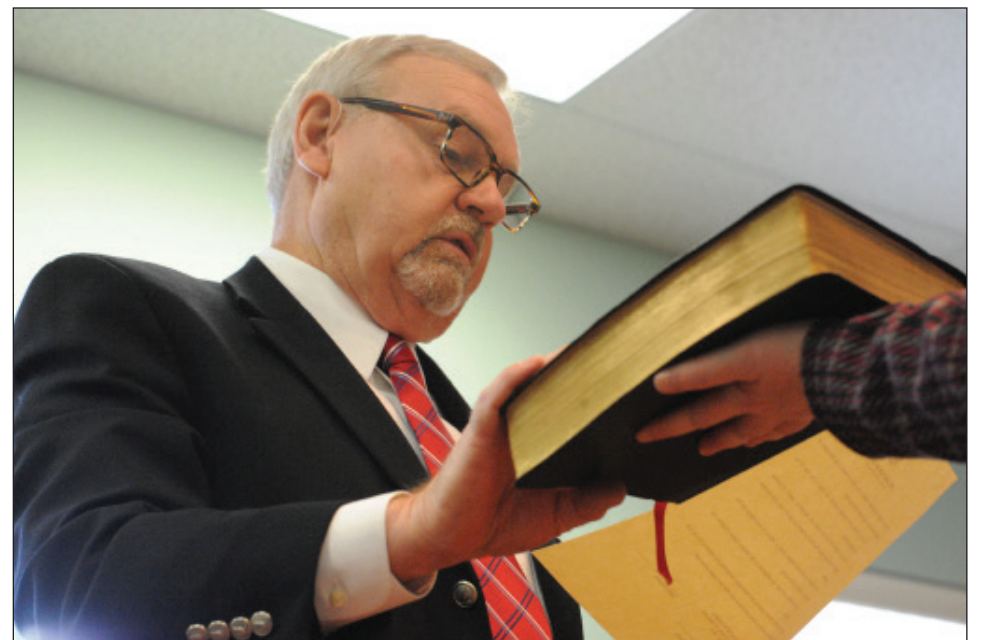


Photo by Mark Arike

Ward 2 councillor Derek Knowles reads the declaration of office at Dysart council's inaugural meeting on Dec. 1.

"I think you saw that in the campaign," said Knowles. "There was a lot of interest out there, some things were discussed during the campaign that had merit regardless of who [made] the suggestions."

New Ward 3 councillor Tammy Donaldson

and re-elected Ward 4 councillor Susan Norcross were also sworn in at the ceremony. Acclaimed Ward 5 councillor Walt McKechnie was absent and will make his declaration of office at the first regular council meeting on Dec. 15.



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Photo by Mark Arike

A small aircraft stays warm and dry inside one of the new hangar stalls at the Haliburton-Stanhope Airport.

New Stanhope airport hangars in high demand

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Construction on four new hangars at the Haliburton-Stanhope Airport has been completed.

The hangars house 20 stalls capable of holding five planes each, totaling 29,250-square-feet of floor space. Electrical and storage rooms accompany each building.

"They can take a wingspan of up to 42 feet," said airport manager Cam Loucks, shortly after receiving the final occupancy permit for the last hangar.

"We've got some float planes in there, there's some amphibian float planes coming in."

A majority of the tenants in the previous T-hangar, which stored 16 planes, moved their aircraft into one of the new hangar's stalls. All of the spots are currently booked and there's a waiting list for 15 aircraft, said Loucks.

"I'm just going to start assigning the last stalls in the last

building," he said, adding that three of the four buildings have been occupied for nearly a month.

Loucks listed several advantages that the new hangars offer, including better protection for the aircraft, easier movement of planes, and a roof with a peak that allows snow to fall away from the front doors of the stalls.

Each building is made out of steel, whereas the previous hangars

were comprised of both steel and wood.

"The stalls that they're going into are night and day compared to the old T-hanger. Everybody has been very impressed with the construction quality, the size of their stall and also that it's secure now," he said.

Other work to be completed in the spring includes hydro seeding and the recontouring of some ditches, said Loucks.

The tender for the project was awarded to Taskforce Engineering, a company based out of Belleville, Ont.

Everybody has been very impressed with the construction quality, the size of their stall and also that it's secure now.

Cam Loucks
airport manager

Minden Hills swells with optimism as new council is sworn in

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

Change was the theme at the Minden Hills inaugural council meeting as speeches and discussions centred around hopes for a cohesive council, clearly focused on the needs of the community.

Held in the council chambers Dec. 1, the meeting began with a call to order and the traditional piping in of the new council.

Peter Oyler, retired educator and chair of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, then took the podium as master of ceremonies.

MP Barry Devolin's executive assistant Jamie Schmale brought greetings on the MP's behalf and Oyler passed along greetings from MPP Laurie Scott.

The invocation was made by Pastor David Johnson, and interim clerk Cheryl McCarroll administered the declaration of office to each council member.

Reeve Brent Devolin then made his inaugural address.

"[For] the next four years I am the public face of Minden Hills within the municipality, county and beyond, and I [will] endeavour to fulfill that responsibility in a manner that is dignified, respectful, and caring in all matters," said Devolin. "My goal is to earn the trust of all taxpayers, and I am dedicated to being an advocate for all the constituencies that call Minden Hills home."

He said he looks forward to "sincere earnest discussion" with his fellow council members and pledged that all members of

council will be "thoughtful, respectful and supportive" of staff.

"I'm a very happy councillor," said Cheryl Murdoch to several cheers from the packed gallery. Murdoch will once again serve as deputy reeve.

"I think we've got a great group of people sitting here, and the most important characteristic of the people sitting here in my opinion is the care," said Murdoch. "They care about Minden Hills and the people who live here."

Murdoch said the municipality has a great staff and "a wonderful group of volunteers – those that we've got left, and we're going to get some of them back again."

"And to the community – you people deserve better than you got for the last four years, so we're going to give it to you."

The meeting ended with the singing of God Save the Queen and a public reception outside the council chambers.

"I think it's going to work just fine," said Carol Simmons following the meeting. A former museum curator for Minden Hills, Simmons noted that all council members are locals and they all have a history in the area.

Sally Moore of Sunny Rock Bed and Breakfast agreed.

"It's an exceptional collection of people that I think are committed to making it work," said Moore.

"We wanted change and we got it."

The rest of Minden Hills council includes Jeanne Anthon and Lisa Schell in Ward 1, Pam Sayne in Ward 2, Jean Neville in Ward 3, and Ron Nesbitt as councillor-at-large.



See page 26 for an additional ad

Highlander news

Lynch joins Algonquin Highlands council

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

Familiar faces graced the council table at the Algonquin Highlands inaugural council meeting, with one exception.

Reeve Carol Moffatt, Ward 2 councillors Liz Danielsen and Lisa Barry, and Ward 3 councillor Marlene Kyle are all returning for a new term. Danielsen also returns to her role as Deputy reeve following appointment by her fellow councillors.

The new kid on the block is David Lynch, who will represent Ward 1 following councillor Gord Henderson's decision to retire from council.

The reeve and councillors read their declarations of office in front of a full gallery during the brief Dec. 2 meeting. Reverend Peter Lawford Davis provided an inaugural prayer.

Moffatt said she was honoured to be reeve again.

"The public has placed in us its belief that we will make good and useful decisions and I know that we will, even though some of those decisions won't be popular," said Moffatt.

"Algonquin Highlands has a long history of progressive thinking and I know that

we will work together as a team to continue that legacy. Our biggest challenge, I believe, will be continuing to find a balance among the varied interests and desires of our three unique communities that we represent and to ensure what's best for the overall municipality."

Moffatt referenced the previous council's work on the airport development project as something of which she's proud, and the completion of a variety of plans that are "ripe with opportunities for us to remain a successful, progressive municipality".

The public has placed in us its belief that we will make good and useful decisions.

Carol Moffatt
reeve, Algonquin
Highlands

Dysart waives tipping fees for Thrift Warehouse

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

After submitting a request to council, SIRCH Community Services will only have to worry about paying for half of a \$700 bill for items taken to the Dysart landfill from Thrift Warehouse.

Council approved the special arrangement during a Nov. 24 regular meeting.

In a letter to Reeve Murray Fearrey, Gena Robertson, executive director of SIRCH Community Services, asked council to forgive the outstanding amount and work with SIRCH to implement a monthly fee "that respects the fact that we are trying to keep everything we can out of your landfills."

"Our intent is to grow the business, attract shoppers to Haliburton, divert household goods and building supplies from the landfill sites in Dysart and employ people," stated Robertson in the letter.

SIRCH is a non-profit organization that began managing Thrift Warehouse, located on Industrial Park Road in Haliburton, last spring. A partnership exists between them and TPS Haliburton Holdings.

Robertson suggested a monthly fee of \$25, whether items are taken to the landfill or not.

"I suggest they make an arrangement with the treasurer to make a payment plan," Brian Nicholson, director of public works, told council.

"While it is appreciated that the Thrift Warehouse is providing a valuable service it is imperative that they do not accept items that may require landfilling," he wrote in his report. "By subsidizing disposal we shift the burden of paying for this waste onto contractors and the ratepayer. The program is run on a cost recovery basis."

Nicholson said he contacted Habitat for Humanity re-stores in Bracebridge and Peterborough, and found out they sort material

as it's received and only accept items of use. Anything that goes to the landfill is paid for at full cost.

After discussing the matter, council voted to waive half of the \$700 bill. They did not agree to a monthly fee as proposed by Robertson.

In an email to The Highlander, Robertson said SIRCH appreciates the compromise that council was able to make. She said her organization will begin to provide the community updates on "the thousands of

tonnes" they are able to divert from the landfill and other benefits the operation offers, such as employment opportunities.

"Our manager, Cammy George, will be working with our new bay coordinator to find other ways of reducing what the Warehouse takes to the landfill," she wrote. "I'm hopeful that council, and the community as a whole, will continue to support Thrift Warehouse as a social enterprise that has both merit and impact in this community."

Next phase of LED project gets the green light

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

The Municipality of Dysart et al is continuing to pursue a project to upgrade all street lights in the municipality to light-emitting diode (LED).

On Nov. 24, the former council approved a recommendation from public works director Brian Nicholson to proceed with Realterm Energy and submit a letter of intent to the company.

According to Nicholson's report, the fuse, wiring and bulb would be replaced in 337 "head" units in an effort to create long-term savings for the municipality.

"A substantial reduction in hydro consumption of 65 per cent is projected in the first year of operation along with an additional 80 per cent cost savings in maintenance," said Nicholson.

The entire project is expected to cost about \$208,000, but the municipality would be entitled to a \$40,000 rebate from the

Ontario Power Authority.

"The opportunity cost savings for energy and maintenance in year one is \$47,867," read Nicholson's report.

The lights would come with a 10-year warranty, but have a lifespan of 20 years. Realterm Energy will act as the project manager and complete an investment grade audit, subject to a \$3,500 fee should the municipality not wish to proceed with the upgrades.

"Well, we have to do something," said Reeve Murray Fearrey. "I noticed that the lights that were fixed a month ago are out again."

Nicholson told The Highlander that the project is not yet a sure thing.

"Now they do this energy grade audit, which really gives us the real numbers," he said, referring to the total cost of the project. "Then at that point the municipality's going to decide" whether they're going to go forward with it or not.

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Highlander news

Algonquin Highlands to offer trail pass discounts

By Lisa Harrison
Contributing writer

With an early taste of a winter wonderland in November, snow enthusiasts' thoughts have already turned to hitting the hills and trails.

In Algonquin Highlands, ski and snowshoe trails experiences will continue to grow following council approval of several Parks, Recreation and Trails department recommendations.

Attracting visitors from around the world, the township's seasonal trails system includes more than 26 kilometres of ski and snowshoe trails based out of the Frost Centre on Highway 35 south of Dorset.

This year the township will create promotional discount coupons for skiers in order to increase awareness and use of the Frost Centre ski program, and to support local tourism and businesses.

Examples can include coupons from ski equipment retailers and coupons from local accommodators that could be coordinated with weekend ski packages, reports department manager Dave Drobitch. The coupons will be limited to a specific use and will include details that enable the township to track their source, use and success.

Council has also approved a partnership with the Haliburton Highlands Nordic Trail & Ski Club Association to offer joint trails passes for a second year.

The Ski 5 Haliburton Highlands Passport will give users access to the Frost Centre ski trails as well as the 44 kilometres of trails the Nordic association operates at Glebe Park, Pinestone Resort, Moose Woods and Twin Lakes and the 16 km YMCA Camp Wanakita trails, according to Drobitch.

Ski 5 pricing will rise slightly to incorporate the association's 2015 fee increase and will

include HST, a \$15 insurance premium (the association carries insurance from Cross Country Canada) and the association's \$2 online registration fee.

All purchasers of the Ski 5 Haliburton Highlands Passport will need to register online through the association's website to satisfy its insurance requirements.

For those who love to snowshoe, the township will offer guided hikes for a second year, with a few changes.

The township received a grant last year through Sport for Life, part of which was used to develop a guided snowshoe hike program. Funding isn't available this year but the hikes had good attendance and received positive feedback, so the township has devised a similar program.

Last year the township worked with Barrie Martin of Yours Outdoors to offer eight guided snowshoe hikes on weekdays beginning in late January and running through February.

Following a meeting with Martin this year, the township developed a revised program of six guided hikes. Fees will be implemented and events will be held on weekends to maximize attendance and increase revenues.

Each hike will last about two hours and cost \$20 per person. Drobitch noted that equipment rentals were included last year, so this year rentals will be discounted by two-thirds to \$5 to attract new users to the sport.

Attendees will also be able to upgrade to a weekend trails pass on either a "pass only" or "pass and rental" basis for an additional discounted fee.

Council approved the total program operating budget of \$1,560 before HST.

Drobitch advised that the break-even point for enrolment is 15 people per hike.

Minden stands firm on fence cost

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

The new wooden fence that lines Parkside Road on the Minden Hills Cultural Centre property will cost the township an additional \$2,100 due to an oversight.

"The fence was pretty much finished when we received this invoice," museum curator Darren Levstek told council during a committee-of-the-whole meeting on Nov. 20.

In July, the township awarded the contract for the job to Loughheed Construction Services for about \$11,000. The design of the fence was reassessed and council approved the changes. The contractor then provided a revised quote for just under \$10,000, according to Levstek's report.

Due to "unanticipated labour and material costs" the contractor requested payment of an additional \$4,400, increasing the total cost of the project to nearly \$12,900.

The township's original budget of \$12,000 was transferred to reserves in 2013.

"I spoke to the individual who runs the company," explained Levstek. "He said this was the result of a misquote on his behalf. He apologized for it."

Councillor Ken Redpath commented that the township shouldn't have to make up for the entire difference.

"If he made a mistake, he should pick up part of the cost," said Redpath.

Council unanimously voted in favour of paying a maximum of \$12,000 for the fencing.

Minden in brief

The township received two tender submissions for the bridge.

Bailey bridge sold

An old foot bridge that has been out of service for the past 28 years has been sold by the Township of Minden Hills for \$9,040. Council approved the sale and early pick up of the bridge during a Nov. 20 meeting.

According to roads superintendent Kevin Hill, the 70-foot long Bailey bridge has sat in the roads department's yard ever since the township formed in 2001. It was located on a section of old Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) highway in Irondale, which was taken over by the townships of Snowdon and Glamorgan prior to amalgamation.

"The age of this bridge was likely over 50 years old and was just taking up room and rusting away," wrote Hill in an email.

The money from the sale of the bridge will be transferred to the roads reserve for future capital needs.

Drop in calls for Minden fire hall

The Minden Hills volunteer fire department has responded to 40 fewer calls in comparison to this time last year. "The last couple of months we've gone to a lot of car accidents and that's due to road conditions, but other than that everything is status quo," fire chief Doug Schell told council on Nov. 20. Up to the end of October, the department had responded to 154 calls versus 193 from the previous year. These include 28 fires (including grass and brush), 77 medical calls, 15 motor vehicle accidents, 11 false alarms and 23 "other" calls.

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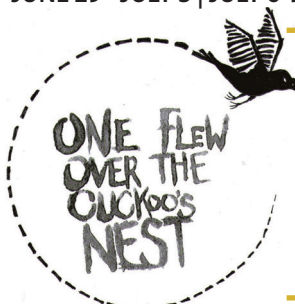
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One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest by Dale Wasserman

Randle McMurphy is the newest patient at a mental facility. We quickly learn McMurphy isn't actually crazy, but a charming, funny rebel who pretends to be insane in order to serve out his prison sentence at the asylum instead of hard labour at a work farm. When he meets the cold and controlling Nurse Ratched, whom he immediately clashes with, he quickly learns his plan was a mistake. His outrageous actions change the conditions for the better, until he faces the ultimate showdown with Ratched in a heartbreaking ending that is both powerful and uplifting. A hilarious and poignant play. JULY 13-17, 22-24 @ 8pm



Wingfield Lost And Found by Dan Needles, starring Rod Beattie | Directed by Douglas Beattie

In the midst of a record drought, wells on the Seventh Line are drying up. A search to locate a new well on Wingfield Farm ensues, but distractions abound: a high-tech cattle drive, a battle with yellow jackets, a feud with a red-tailed hawk, an eccentric line-up of water witches and a well driller who is only too happy to perforate the ground at forty dollars a foot. More than an environmental comedy, *Wingfield Lost and Found* is a whimsical reminder that searching can turn up more than what is lost and teach us the value of more than what is found. JULY 19-21 @ 8pm

Nunsensations! by Dan Goggin

The Nunsense Vegas Revue takes the Little Sisters of Hoboken on a brand new adventure. When a parishioner volunteers to donate \$10,000 to the sisters' school if they will perform in a club in Las Vegas, Mother Superior is hesitant to accept. However, after being convinced by the other sisters that 'what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas', Reverend Mother agrees. What follows is the most feather-filled, sequin-studded, fan dancing Nunsense show ever. 'Nunsensations!' is a whole lot funny and a little bit naughty, but there ain't nothin' dirty goin' on!

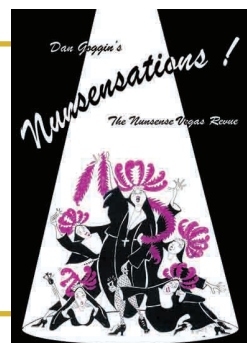
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Highlander arts

A farrier's future

While recently perusing through the newspaper, I came across an advertisement for a farrier. A farrier is a person who makes and fits horseshoes. What made the ad intriguing is that this particular farrier happened to be a woman.

Now I know that women can do just about anything a man can do, but having some knowledge from a previous interview with another local farrier, I remembered that a certain amount of physical strength is needed, especially when dealing with the larger draft horses like Clydesdales and Belgians.

What also intrigued me was the question of how much demand there really was for additional farriers in Haliburton County. I made a phone call and left a message. The response I got from Elli Nash, the female farrier in question, was surprising. She said that she was out west at a farrier conference and would talk to me when she got home.

A farrier conference? Who knew?

When I finally did interview Elli, more surprises were in order. It turns out she is a mere 22 years old and she'd just returned to Haliburton County after being away for a couple of years. She'd been busy attending classes and graduating from the Advanced Farrier Science program at Olds College in Alberta, and also getting her diploma in Equine Science from the University of Guelph.

"I originally came to the Highlands with my dad and sisters when I was 15," Elli

said. "I was born in Shomberg and that's where I started riding. Up here I rode at 'Just a Farm' in Lochlin, and then I moved to a barn in Dwight to take advantage of a coach who taught me to become a better rider. I did jumping and dressage."

After high school in Haliburton Elli went to the University of Ottawa, but she wasn't happy there.

"I really wanted a career with horses, so I found the program at the University of Guelph and started correspondence courses," she said. "Then I heard about the program at Olds College. You have to go for a personal interview, so I flew out and I was accepted. I took Eddie, my warmblood. He goes everywhere with me."

Now that she's a farrier, Elli finds herself dealing mostly with warmbloods and quarter horses. Warmbloods? The term distinguishes these horses from both heavy draft horses (cold bloods) and refined light saddle horses such as the Thoroughbred and Arabian (hot bloods).

This information was new to me, but to a dedicated group of horse-loving people in our county this is common knowledge. Yes horses are still a part of our culture, but not to the extent that they were a hundred years ago. Nowadays, with the exception of draft horses that still do some work on a few farms in the county, most horses are used recreationally or bred for show. So a farrier is still required by these small but dedicated groups.

"The job requires much more than putting shoes on a horse," Elli said. "You need knowledge of the anatomy of a horse, what kind of work they're doing, their conformation, and any existing and old injuries. You need to be pretty fit, with a strong back and core to do the work of shoeing horses, and for that reason it's still a job dominated by men. But I'm strong."

What separates Elli from many other farriers is her quest for knowledge and education in her chosen field.

"I go out to conferences, clinics and farrier competitions," she said.

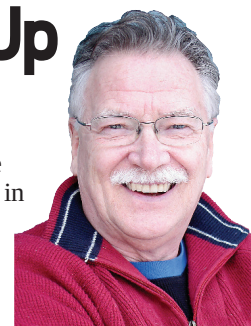
Many of these activities take place in our western provinces, so there's travel involved.

"It's worth the expense, because it better me in my trade," she explained. "And you can win things like tools and gift certificates to farrier supply stores. But it's the education that for me is the important component."

In talking to Elli I'm also getting educated. "Farriers can work all year round, though it's the busiest in the spring, summer and fall when more people are riding and showing horses in events and fairs," she said. "But some people have their horse's shoes taken off in the fall, and sometimes people want to put a winter snow pad under the shoes to prevent snow buildup. We can also outfit a horse with studded shoes for winter."

Although she's spending some time

What's Up



By George Farrell

getting her portable forge and her truck in tip top shape, Elli also has her eye on the future.

"I'd like to become a certified journeyman farrier through the American Farrier Association, (AFA)," she said. "But before that I have to pass the certified farrier course from the AFA. I've passed the written part and now I need to pass the practical."

Many successful Canadian farriers work and do well without those American certificates, but I was surprised to learn that we have no Canadian equivalent. Elli has had discussions with other farriers about starting a Canadian association, but they all realize that it would take a lot of work to organize and operate.

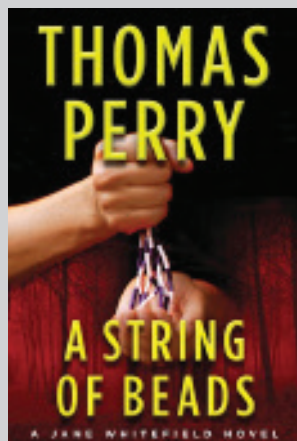
Right now Elli needs to establish her business here in the Highlands.

"I still have to find out whether I can make a living here," she said. "But there will always be a fair amount of travel involved in my business, no matter where I live."

Something tells me that Elli Nash can accomplish anything she sets her mind to, and being instrumental in forming a Canadian Farrier's Association just might be in her future.

Haliburton County's Hot Reads

The following are popular new additions to the Haliburton County Public Library's collection this week.



HCPL'S TOP FICTION

1. *A String of Beads* by Thomas Perry
2. *Betrayed* by Lisa Scottoline
3. *A Twist of the Knife* by Peter James

HCPL'S TOP NON-FICTION

1. *There Was a Little Girl: the real story of my mother and me* by Brooke Shields
2. *Lives in Ruins: archaeologists and the seductive lure of human rubble* by Marilyn Johnson
3. *How to Cook Everything Fast: a better way to cook great food* by Mark Bittman

HCPL'S TOP JUNIOR TITLES

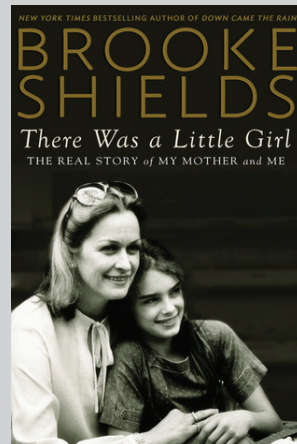
1. *Mike and the Snow Dragon* by Daphne Prendergrass (Picture Book)
2. *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote (JF)

AUDIO AND VIDEO AT HCPL

1. *The Giver* (DVD)
2. *Hope to Die* by James Patterson (Book on CD)

LIBRARY NEWS

Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library Christmas Book Basket Sale! Check it out on Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dysart Branch. From 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., Santa's Elf-in-Training will drop in to give children under 10 a free Scholastic book donated by the Haliburton and Minden District Lions Clubs.




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HighlanderTV

This week, watch the Christmas Shindig with Mike Jaycock and Lorraine McNeil at HIGHLANDERONLINE.CA

Highlander arts



Photos by Mark Arike

A variety of artistic creations are currently on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery’s Members’ Show. A closing reception for the exhibition will be held on Dec. 20.

Spotlight shines on Cultural Centre members

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

Since 1981, the Minden Hills Cultural Centre has honoured the vision of the late Dr. Agnes Jamieson by hosting the annual Members’ Show.

“The requirement that Dr. Jamieson had was that everybody had an opportunity,” said gallery curator Laurie Carmount, pointing out that even some children’s work is featured in the non-juried exhibition.

“It’s open to the members [of the Cultural Centre] in the hopes that they will show us what they’ve been doing recently,” she said.

This year’s show features approximately 50 pieces, including fine art and craft work covering a wide range of mediums. Most of the art is available for purchase.

According to the township’s website, Dr. Jamieson arrived in Minden during World War II and became the first female coroner in Ontario. She enjoyed art and was an amateur painter.

The gallery was named in honour of Jamieson “for her dedication to have a public art gallery for the benefit of the community’s well being and to house a collection of artwork to include bequeathed paintings by André Lapine.”

“She understood what it was to have

community engagement in order to have support,” explained Carmount.” Without that, what’s the point?”

During the show, visitors are encouraged to pick their favourite piece of artwork for the People’s Choice Award. The artist who receives the most votes will receive their own exclusive space at the show two years from now.

The winner from the 2012 show, George Farrell, currently has his photography work on display on the walls of the main gallery room.

Carmount said the opportunity gives the chosen artist the chance to work with a curator, interact with the public and hopefully sell some of their work.

The show doesn’t have a theme and artists were asked to enter one piece.

All of the entries are original work and Carmount says that visitors will be amazed by what they find.

“I think you’d be surprised by what some of them have done,” she said. “It’s a good time for them to try something they maybe haven’t done before.”

The closing reception will be held Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. in the gallery. The winner of the People’s Choice Award will be announced at the event.

Admission to the exhibition is \$3 per person but it is free to members.

Gallery curator takes reins as new Arts Council chair

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

After two years as a board members with the Arts Council~Haliburton Highlands, Laurie Carmount has decided to fill some big shoes as chair of the organization.

Carmount stepped into the role in a board meeting held shortly after the Arts Council’s annual general meeting at the end of October. She took over the reins from Chris Lynd, who held the position for three years.

“I had a really good idea as to where things are and what was going on,” said Carmount. “I felt I was there long enough to have enough history [to become chair].”

A resident of Algonquin Highlands, Carmount is employed by the Township of Minden Hills as curator of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Over the past 12 years she has worked with many artists and members of the community to bring countless exhibitions and programming to the gallery.

As chair of the non-profit arts organization, she plans on taking the ideas that Lynd had and turning them

into reality with the help of the board of directors, which includes four new members.

“There are some really great people on that board. It’s very promising,” she said.

Her current priorities include communication with the membership and focusing on a few key areas, one of which is getting more people actively involved with the organization.

“I would really like to see strategic meetings held [to determine] where we’re at and where do we move forward. We certainly can’t lose momentum,” she said.

The new website, said Carmount, should help to strengthen communication with members.

With around 140 members, the Arts Council’s mission is to provide a strong voice for the arts in Haliburton County. Members include artists, arts organizations, businesses and supporters.

Carmount would like to recognize and celebrate the achievements of local artists when possible, perhaps at events such as the Arty Party. This social gathering was held annually for many years immediately after the AGM.

“Maybe it becomes not just a party

but our successes,” she said, adding that encouraging artists to discuss their achievements in a public forum is a great way to advocate for the arts.

In recent years, the Arts Council has faced challenging times – from the departure of the organization’s only staff person to cash flow problems that saw them borrow \$10,000 from the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Since then, Carmount feels the Arts Council is on the right track.

“I just see it as getting really organized now.”

As “a very formalized person” she intends on ensuring that policies and procedures are in place in order to avoid unexpected surprises.

“My personal goal going into all of this is to look at that more closely.”

She commends Lynd, who remains on the board and is secretary, for toughing it out and helping steer the organization in the right direction.

“Chris needs the biggest kudos in the whole world ever,” she chuckled. “She should just be handed the biggest golden medal there is.”

Although it’s been challenging at times, Lynd looks back fondly on her time as chair.

“I feel fortunate to have held the position of chair at the Arts Council for the past three years,” she wrote in an email. “I have had the opportunity to work with wonderful people, promoting, problem solving, planning, celebrating and growing the Arts Council.”

She is looking forward to the future with optimism and confidence, especially with Carmount as her successor.

“Laurie comes with a great deal of experience in arts, culture and heritage and has a keen interest in the success of the Arts Council. She has four new directors to work with along with Jennifer Bain as treasurer and myself as secretary. I look forward to this next term,” she said.

I just see it as getting really organized now.
Laurie Carmount
chair, Arts Council
Haliburton Highlands

Highlander life

Learning to live again

Woman credits SIRCH program with helping her work through grief

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

Last summer, Noreen Rankin's life was changed forever.

On Aug. 3, 2013, she lost her husband of over 55 years. However, where most widows would begin the grieving process, Rankin never had the chance. She was diagnosed with breast cancer a month later.

"I found out in September there was a problem, and by December I had had surgery," she recalled. "In January [2014], I went down to Oshawa to have my treatments."

When she got home, Rankin learned of SIRCH's bereavement program. She was asked if she wanted to be a part of it.

"I was certainly interested because I really didn't have time to grieve," she said. "When medical things took over for a while, it took my mind off it. I put it to the back. I knew I had to go through the process, so it seemed like a good idea."

Rankin admits she struggled being home, and desperately missed her husband.

"You feel very lonely, devastated," she

said. "You just miss him like mad. We were married over 55 years. Every time you watch something on TV, you'd turn to say 'Oh look at that,' and he's not there."

Although her granddaughter came to stay with her for a little bit, Rankin was too tired from her cancer treatment and had to ask to be alone. It was then she began her group meetings with SIRCH.

"The first session really deals with the actual death itself," she said. "You have a day when everybody has to tell where they were when their husband or wife, or whoever, passed away. How did it affect you? What step did you go through, and those kinds of things."

Rankin said it started the process of trying to focus on other things.

"You have to go through your grieving process and everybody handles it differently, and that's why it's so nice to have a group," she said. "Everybody looks at things from their own perspective. All have different backgrounds, so you might see something totally different out of a situation than I see."

Rankin has finished the first group sessions, and they've now graduated to part two of the program. She said the group is

very tight-knit, and they often talk outside of the group environment.

"If you know somebody's struggling, you make sure to phone to make sure they're ok."

Through the group sessions, Rankin has learned that life is still worth living.

"You realize life goes on. Holidays keep taking place, whether you want them to or not. You learn different methods to cope with it. For myself, I've kept in touch with all the people that my husband and I used to contact all the time. We were very close to both sides of the family."

It took time for Rankin to realize she wasn't an inconvenience to their family and friends.

"It was very hard in the beginning, but now I feel they don't make me feel like an outsider because he's not with me," she said. "They still like you for you, not just because you were a couple. I feel the group helped me with that."

Despite the progress she has made, Rankin said there are still some things she can't do. As a former Hyland Crest volunteer, she would visit with residents who didn't have family.

"I was going to go back one day, and when I saw a couple of the people I realized I wasn't

ready for it yet. It reminded me too much of him when he was near the end. I can't do that yet, but I hope to volunteer again."

Were it not for SIRCH's bereavement program and her group, Rankin said she wouldn't be doing so well.

"They make you get off your butt and do things, and make plans to go visit people," she said. "This group... they're all going through the same things themselves and are able to express how they're feeling. Days when it's crap, and you put it on the table and say I just had the [worst] day and this is the reason why... they understand."

Although working through her grief takes its toll, Rankin is thankful she's a part of the program.

"Sometimes when I come home, I'm drained because of different things we've talked about, but I still feel better because I'm understanding what you have to go through to get through the grief," she said. "It's a matter of pick yourself up and keep going."

For more information on SIRCH's bereavement program, visit sirch.on.ca.

This holiday season, consider a Gift from the Heart. Visit sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742.

Fleming teacher pens book about his hero

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

When David Ward went looking for his childhood hero, he found more than he bargained for.

Back in 2007, Ward, a past and returning faculty member at Fleming College's Haliburton campus, decided he wanted to write his first book. He didn't get started until two years later. His book, *The lost 10-point night: searching for my hockey hero*, hit the shelves on Sept. 1.

"I didn't know what I wanted to write about, but it crossed my mind that I'd like to [explore] my childhood a little bit," he said. "Adulthood can beat you down sometimes, and I thought it would be fun to explore my childhood."

He decided to go on a search for retired NHLer Jim Harrison.

"When I was 11, he was a [Toronto Maple] Leaf," said Ward. "That was the early 70s. He was a third-line centre. He didn't get a lot of ice time and wasn't one of the stars, but he was really appealing to me. He was the kind of guy who would just as soon run over you as score a goal, and there's something appealing in that to me."

Harrison's clumsy skating, willingness to sacrifice his body for his teammates, and even his bushy hair and big sideburns, all contributed to Ward's fascination with the player.

"I found him in Kelowna B.C.," Ward recalled. "He was doing well, but he'd had some real challenges over the years after leaving hockey."

Harrison's hockey injuries continued

to haunt him, including two major back surgeries. He self-medicated over the years which was part of his suffering, said Ward.

"Another part was his agent, Alan Eagleson, former union head and player agent, had ripped him off and stole from him, big time," he said. "[Eagleson] was a convicted felon. He spent time in jail for having stolen so much money from old-time hockey players, and Jim [Harrison] was one of them."

Ward made contact with Harrison, but it took a while to earn the player's trust.

"It's hard for a guy like that to think I'd want to write a book about him," said Ward. "He wasn't completely trusting of me as I arrived, as to what my intentions were."

Other players and coaches interviewed for the book were equally surprised by Ward's interest in Harrison, but over time, the player lowered his guard.

"I gradually gained his trust, and he didn't disappoint," said Ward. "He just opened right up with his story. It was awesome."

Harrison spoke about losing his wife to breast cancer and his battle with self-medication.

"He's remarried and found a wonderful woman," said Ward. "They found ways to claw themselves out of the economic challenges they were facing."

While Harrison is no longer the same man Ward idolized growing up, what he's overcome has made him an even bigger hero to the writer.

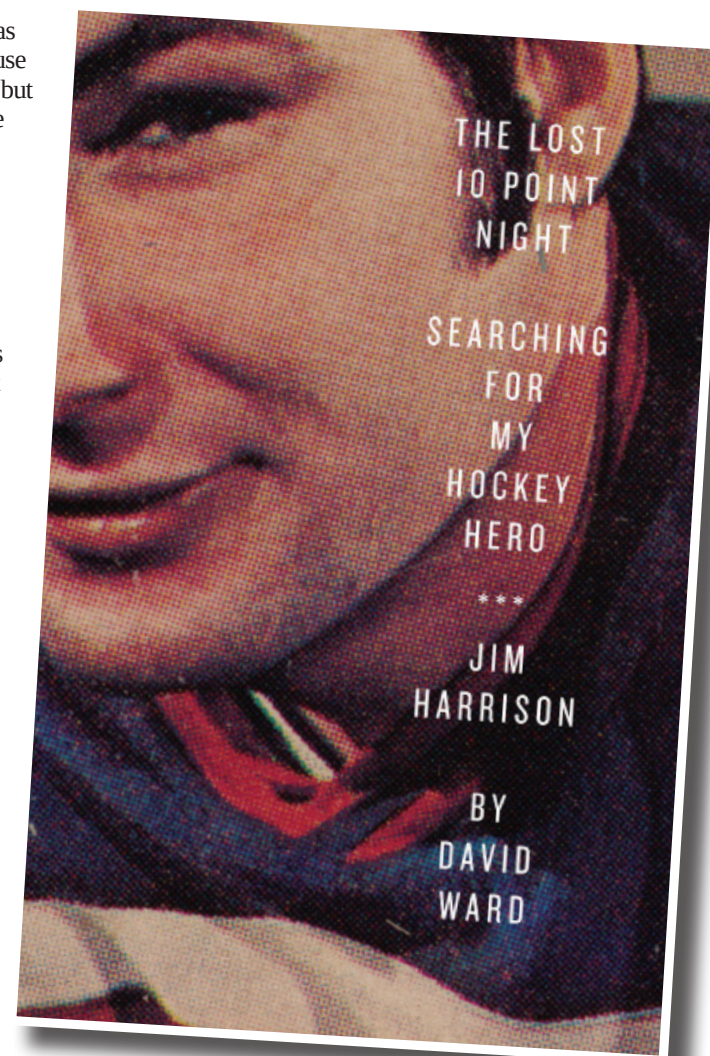
"When you go in search of your childhood hero, there's always some risk associated with it," Ward said. "It's not always fair to the childhood hero, and not always easy. But Jim [Harrison] is a bigger hero to me today

than he was when I was 11 years old, not because he played pro hockey, but what he's done in spite of the game. He's full of spirit, initiative and motivation."

While named after Harrison's famous 10-point WHA game, where he scored three goals and seven assists in 1973, the book isn't all about hockey.

"The 10-point game is just a small part of it," said Ward. "It is absolutely featured in the book, but this is about Jim [Harrison]'s journey, framed against my journey. It's part memoir, part biography, and all cathartic for author and subject."

The book is available at the Haliburton County Public Library, and is on sale across the country.



David Ward's book is on sale nationwide and is available at your local library branch.

Submitted by David Ward

Highlander life

Wildlife sanctuary seeks help to win cash contest

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

With stiff competition from across Canada entering the Aviva Community Fund contest, one local charity is looking to the community for their support to advance to the finals.

"We really need the support on this one," said Monika Melichar, president of Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS).

Located on 45 acres in Minden since 2008, WWS rehabilitates and releases a variety of orphaned and injured wildlife in the Haliburton Highlands. The volunteer-based organization takes in about 400 animals per year, according to Melichar, some of which are species at risk.

"We accept most species of wildlife," she said. "The only ones we do not do are the larger ones, like bears or moose. We don't have the facilities for those."

By signing up for the challenge, Melichar hopes to receive upwards of \$45,000 in funding to erect a new nursery and intensive care unit for these animals. The building would be insulated and heated, "and large enough to accommodate [the] ever-growing intake of animals that need delicate care in a

stable environment."

The competition started with 500 organizations from across the country vying for a spot in the semi-finals, she explained. WWS was one of the 140 groups voted in to the second stage of the competition, and is now in the race for the finals.

A panel of judges will score each of the 40 finalists' ideas based on a set of criteria including impact, likelihood of success, longevity and sustainability, originality, submission quality, votes, and category leadership.

Each finalist is guaranteed to receive \$5,000. Up to \$100,000 will be awarded for the broker supported grand prize.

If WWS is successful in the contest, it won't be their first time winning some funding through a public voting competition. In 2013, the sanctuary received a \$25,000 grant from the Shell FuellingChange program to build a six-acre deer enclosure. Last year they received the same amount in the contest to install a fenced waterfowl pond.

To vote for the sanctuary's project, visit avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf19947. Each registered user can vote up to 15 times, but only vote for each idea once a day.

The voting period closes Dec. 10.



Photos submitted by Monika Melichar

The Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary cares for orphaned and injured wildlife.

By Matthew Desrosiers

Kidds support puppy rescue

The Moosonee Puppy Rescue, run by Sharron and Paul Purdy, have received a needed boost thanks to the Winter Dogs fundraiser on Nov. 17. Haliburton's Gord and Kathryn Kidd donated \$1,000 to the fundraiser to help with the costs of spaying and neutering the animals, providing general care, and transporting northern dogs to Bracebridge. The funds came from Gord's CD sales. Kathryn estimated the event raised between \$2,000-2,500 for the rescue.

Pictured left: Sharron Purdy (middle) receives a \$1,000 donation from Haliburton is Gord and Kathryn Kidd.



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Highlander sports

Minden CARQUEST Auto Midget B Girls

Submitted by Dan Marsden

The Minden CARQUEST Auto Midget B Girls travelled to Keene Saturday afternoon to take on the Wolverines in their first game of two on their one-day road trip. After a scoreless first period, Alicia McLean opened the scoring on a power play with a top-shelfer midway through the second period. Keene tied the score minutes later off a goal mouth scramble. Taking on the Wolverine challenge, the Storm secured the win with goals by Kelsey Maracle and Erin Little. The Storm continued their road trip to Brighton that night to battle the Cold Creek Comets. The Comets jumped out to an early first period 1-0 lead off a five-on-three power play. McLean tied the score with the first of the team’s five unanswered goals to get the win.

On Sunday, the Storm hosted the Peterborough Ice Kats in a battle for first place in their loop. The Ice Kats opened the scoring in the penalty-filled contest on a short-handed goal early in the first period that seemed to wake the Storm up from their tough two-game tilt the day before. Marsden tied the game at 1-1 with a quick wrister that fooled the Peterborough tender late in the first period. As the Ice Kats continued their chippy attack, the Storm kept their composure and added three more unanswered goals to secure the win.

Peppermill Restaurant Peewee AE

Submitted by Jon Petrie

The Peewee AE Highland Storm are looking more like a team every day. On Sunday, the Oro Thunder travelled to Minden. Led by Nate Misco who played a phenomenal game in net, the home squad discovered new-found confidence and pressured the Thunder defense early. Although the visitors claimed the first two goals through two periods, if not for a couple of unlucky bounces the Storm would have easily kept pace.

In the third period, the Thunder capitalized on some intense pressure early on but the Storm finally got some bounces going their way. After a nice feed from Brendan Newhook, Tyler Martin was the first to break free, deftly crossing through the middle and depositing a beautiful shot, high glove-side. On the next shift, Brady Baldry battled exhaustively, moving the puck down to the corner and crossing a sweet feed to Brendan Coumbs out front who had an easy tap-in to bring the score to within one. Oro claimed the two goal lead again on a fluky bounce but the Storm continued to pressure the Thunder relentlessly. With only one second left, William Petrie fed the puck across to Tyler Martin for his second of the game but unfortunately it was too little, too late.

Minden Pharmasave Peewee A

Submitted by Jennifer Little

The Highland Storm Minden Pharmasave Peewee team faced off against the South Muskoka Bears in Haliburton on Nov. 29 and 30.

Early in the first period on Saturday, Ryan Hall dangled down the ice, passing off to Isaac Little resulting in the first goal of the game. In the second period, the Bears were able to sneak one past Ethan Glecoff in net. Although the boys fought a hard battle they were not able to break the 1-1 tie.

On Sunday the Minden Pharmasave Peewees hosted the Bears for the second time of the weekend.

Joe Boice started the scoring with a minute left in the first period assisted by Benn MacNaull and Zach Morissette. In the second, after many penalties on both sides, Boice put the puck in again assisted by Hall and Morissette.

Seconds after the puck dropped in the third, the Bears scored. Not to be outplayed, Hall found open ice and in his effortless way, outskated the Bears and found the back of the net. The Bears scored a second time resulting in a 3-2 win for the Minden Pharmasave Highland Storm.

Joanne Sharpley's Source for Sports Atom AE

Submitted by Ron Hall

On Nov. 29, the Joanne Sharpley’s Source for Sports Atom AE’s hosted the South Muskoka Bears in a home an home weekend.

The storm came out flying, pounding the Bears goalie, battling back and forth, and going into the second tied at zero. Curtis Mulock got it to Dylan Keefer, rushing into the Bears’ end, who let loose a beautiful tape to tape pass to Kyan Hall in front of the net. Hall backhanded it into the top corner, taking the lead. The Storm’s lead was short lived as the Bears came back to score two quick goals making it 2-1 going into the third.

Evan Armstrong was after every Bear like it was hunting season, forcing one of the players to cough up the puck in front of the net and Hall picked it up and buried it. The players battled back and forth but the Bears scored their third goal with 10 minutes remaining in the third. This time the Storm battled right back into the Bears’ end and Keefer buried one from the side of the net to tie it back up. The Bears managed to get it making it 4-3. Unfortunately after a hard battle the Storm lost possession and the Bears scored on the empty net making the final score 5-3.

On Nov. 30, the Storm headed to Gravenhurst to play their second game of the home and home series. Just 34 seconds into the game Keefer passed to Hall who outskated the Bears defence and put the puck in the net. With only six seconds left in the first with a rush from Hall, shooting on the net and with the puck bouncing to Olivia Villamere who put it in the net scoring her first of the season. Up 2-0 going into the second, the Storm got stronger. Coming off the bench Hall picked up the puck from Kaine Brannigan and shot it in, putting the team ahead by three. With the Storm pressuring the Bears in their own end with a great set up, Chloe Billings to Evan Armstrong and Keefer buried it from the point. The Bears weren’t going down without a fight and managed to get one.

The Storm were not letting up and scored another one just 12 seconds later with Jamie Crowe banking it off the boards to Hall, who passed to Mulock for the goal. The game finished 5-2 for the Storm. Congratulations

Highland Storm

team on your first win of the season. Your coaching staff and parents are very proud of you!

Smolen Dentistry Bantam A Submitted by Suzanne Haedicke

The Storm silenced the Oro Thunder with a 6-0 win last Friday night in Minden. It began during a power play, a hard shot by Garbutt from the point got by the goalie, assisted by Walker. The team didn’t let up for the rest of the game.

The Storm travelled to meet with the Penetang Flames last Saturday for a 6-1 win. It began with a feed from O’Neill onto the stick of Cooper, he dangled in for a nice top corner goal. Seconds into the second, Flood deked through and snapped one in. The Storm pressured the Flames. A goal by Cooper began with a hard rush by Manning, making it 3-0, ending the second. The Storm came out strong in the last period. Cooper made a quick pass to Garbutt, who blasted a shot by the goalie. The Storm controlled the puck around the net that resulted in a goal by Schmidt. Last goal was a one-timer by Garbutt, fed by Manning.

Canadian Tire Novices Submitted by Tracey Gilbert

The Canadian Tire Novices started the weekend off with a home game on Saturday against the Huntsville Otters. At the end of the second period, the Storm was down 4-0. The third period proved to be the fire that they were looking for. The Storm was determined to win this game, and finally they got one past the Huntsville goalie. Within no time the Storm had come back to tie the game 4-4. But there was no giving up at this point. The team score two more goals to take the lead 6-4 with only a few minutes left on the clock. Huntsville managed to squeak in two more goals to tie the game at six.

Sunday took the novices to Parry Sound for the day. They had a double-header set and were looking to walk away with two wins. Game one ended in their favour with a 2-1 win over the Shamrocks. With a short break, the Storm set out to start Game 2 and skated away with a 4-1 win.

Fast Lane Bowling Scores

Monday afternoon, Nov. 24

Men: High average: Claude Cote – 201
High single: Ken Thompson – 284
High single handicap: Vic Ross – 313
High triple: Ken Thompson – 652
High triple handicap: Vic Ross – 753

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 179
High single: Chris Cote – 224
High single handicap: Chris Cote – 262
High triple: Chris Cote – 574
High triple handicap: Chris Cote – 688

Monday night, Nov. 24

Men: High average: Rick West – 215
High single: Gord Pitcher – 253
High single handicap: Gord Pitcher – 295
High triple: Rick West – 569
High triple handicap: Fred Hartlen – 681

Women: High average: Cathy Snell – 221
High single: Cathy Snell – 253
High single handicap: Nancy Charlton – 290
High triple: Nancy Charlton – 589
High triple handicap: Nancy Charlton – 736

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 25

Men: High average: Ken Thompson – 214
High single: Claude Cote – 399
High single handicap: Claude Cote – 419
High triple: Claude Cote – 821
High triple handicap: Claude Cote – 881

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 180
High single: Chris Cote – 238
High single handicap: Chris Cote – 276
High triple: Chris Cote – 612
High triple handicap: Chris Cote – 726

Wednesday Special Olympics, Nov. 19

Men: Jason Cochrane – 174
Trevor Brauer – 135
Russel Whetstone – 128

Women:

Dawn Piercey – 174
Buddy Plouffe – 141
Robin Fletcher – 113

Thursday, Nov. 27

Men: High average: Gerry Wagg – 177
High single: Gerry Wagg – 222
High single handicap: Gerry Wagg – 261
High triple: Jim Cummings – 607
High triple handicap: Jim Cummings – 727

Women: High average: Pat Stiver – 175
High single: Barb Ballantyne – 238
High single handicap: Barb Ballantyne – 280

High triple: Barb Ballantyne – 536
High triple handicap: Jean Barry – 712

Friday afternoon, Nov. 28

Men: High average: Ken Thompson – 210
High single: Claude Cote – 276
High single handicap: Claude Cote – 299
High triple: Claude Cote – 670
High triple handicap: Claude Cote – 739

Women: High average: Chris Cote – 173
High single: Pearl Foster – 239
High single handicap: Pearl Foster – 291
High triple: Pearl Foster – 555
High triple handicap: Pearl Foster – 711

Highlander sports



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Photos by Mark Arike

Top: Caleb Schmidt dribbles his way past a player from the opposing team. Left: The Hawks' leading scorer, Hunter Smith, takes aim from the free throw line.

Hawks win home opener

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

With the help of a few key players and several points in the paint, the senior Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Red Hawks basketball team defeated the Brock High School Bulldogs 44-35 in their home opener of the season on Dec. 1.

After coming off a loss to LCVI the week before, the outcome couldn't have been better for head coach David Waito.

"It was nice to finish a close game and finish a close game on top," said Waito.

The Hawks got off to a strong start in the first quarter as soon as Hunter Smith scored the first basket of the game. Nick Thompson followed that up with two more.

It wasn't until five minutes into the game that the Bulldogs scored their first basket.

With eight points in the first half, Waito called Nick Thompson the "difference maker" for the team. He added that along with Cody Bain, the two players "did a job of establishing that inside presence."

"I think it put them on their heels a little bit, which allowed those guards to get going in the second half," he said.

Returning senior player Hunter Smith was

the top scorer of the game with 20 points. "He definitely took over in the third quarter, and the big difference was he was just much more aggressive."

Waito also praised Caleb Schmidt for "some solid backcourt minutes" and Angus Sullivan for his defense.

The Bulldogs managed to pick up the slack in the second half, which kept Waito and his team on their toes. In the final quarter the Bulldogs came within seven points of the Hawks.

Although Waito was a bit on edge in the second half, he said that kind of competitiveness is a good thing early in the season.

"Those things are nice because they build composure for the season going forward."

In an interview last month, Waito said his team's primary goals would be to achieve a win-loss record around the .500 mark, finish each game with less than 10 turnovers and score high percentage shots. The Hawks will look to make their mark in the league with solid defence, he said.

"It's a really good group of guys. They're showing a lot of commitment."

The team's next home game is on Dec. 17. Their opponents are yet to be determined.



Junior highlanders

Through **my eyes**

Count your blessings, not your money

As we move into the Christmas, season we should remember that material things aren't all there is.



By Austin McGillion

In this great wide world there are many things to consider. We in North America are fortunate we fare better than most. In Third World countries, death and disease, poverty and war are all common problems. We must look out into the world and be thankful that we do not suffer these problems, but we must also feel sorrow for those who do, even if we ourselves are powerless to help.

We should remember that even if we aren't religious, Christmas isn't about presents. It's about family, friends and colleagues. We must not take for granted the things we have because we were lucky enough to be born here. We should be thankful for the things we overlook, like clean water, electricity, grocery stores, and our homes.

A lot of people, including children, die of starvation every day, so it bothers me when I see kids get angry that they didn't get what they wanted for Christmas.

There are families in this county who are struggling, too. This community is very good for supporting its own, but some will always be better off than others. And you can't help everyone, often because we don't see or know about all the families who need support.

What I'm trying to say is that we shouldn't gauge the holiday on how many presents we get. We should be thankful for the things we do have, and remember those who are without. And if we can, in the spirit of the season and of a good community, we should help those in need.

I want to wish everyone a happy Christmas this year. May you all be cozy inside, your plates be full, your glasses never empty and your family safe whether near or far.

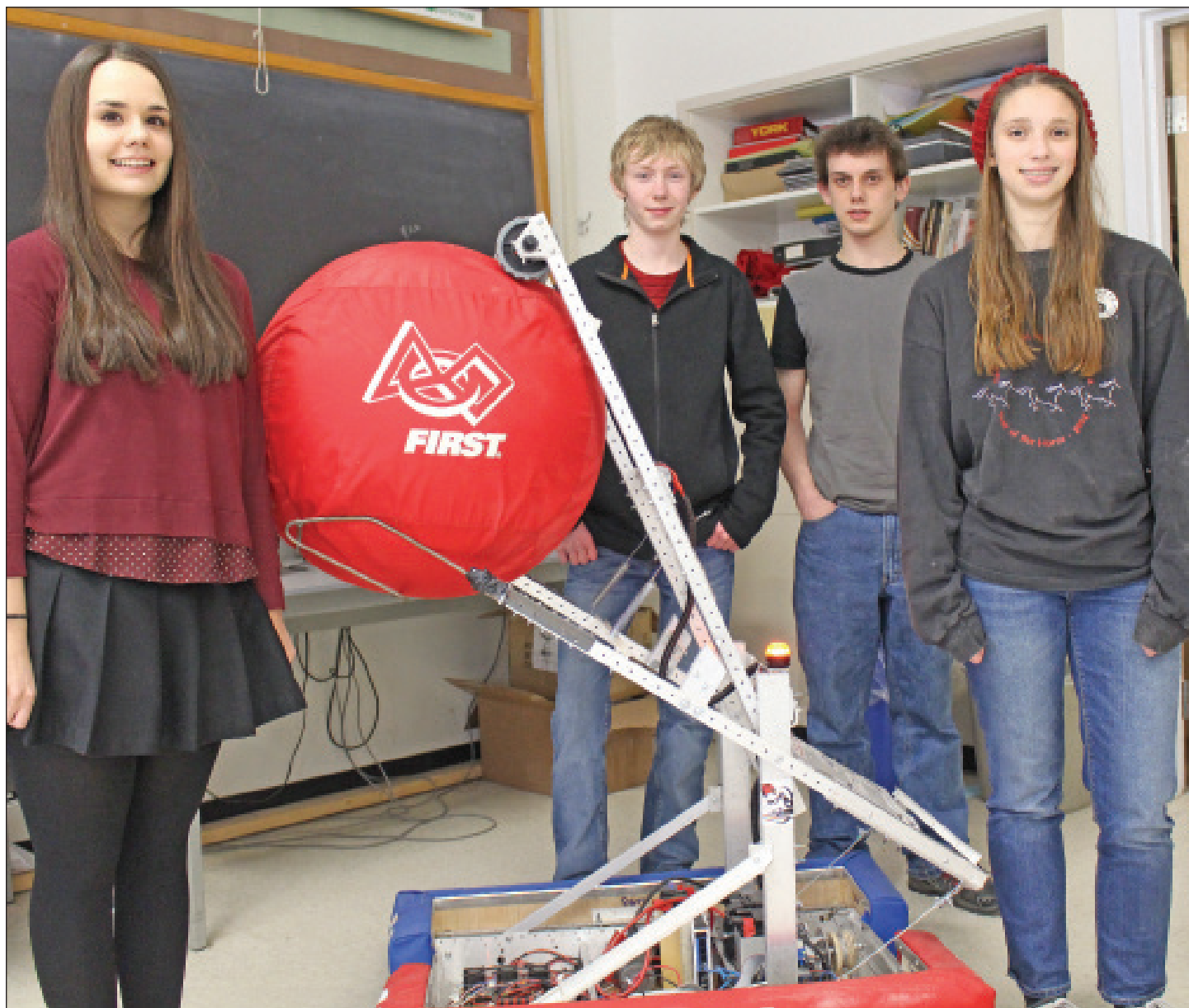


Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Robotics Club is gearing up for another season. From left are club members Cassandra Johannessen, Johnathan Prestwich, Cody Williams, and Betty Paton, with their robot from last season.

Robotics team essay scores 3D printer

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Robotics Club is off to a strong start to the year, though their season hasn't even begun yet.

Grade 11 student and club member Cassandra Johannessen has won the group a brand new three-dimensional (3D) Ekocycle Cube printer, valued at over \$1,000.

"I wrote an essay and entered it online," Johannessen said. "It was 300 words about what we could do with the printer and how we could use it."

FIRST, the organization that hosts the club's robotic competitions, held the contest. They awarded around 1,600 printers across North America.

"It will help us make customized parts," Johannessen explained. "Finding specialized parts [last year] to fit exactly what we needed was a challenge, so we can overcome that obstacle this year because we will have the ability to fabricate those parts ourselves."

The printer uses cartridges which contain recycled material. Each cartridges costs around \$50 dollars, said Dan Fockler, the teacher advisor for the club. He said the

printer will be made available to other courses in the school, including computer design and tech design. However, the printer will belong to the club.

The Robotics Club formed last year. Under the mentorship of another school, they constructed their first robot to compete in the FIRST competition in North Bay. They finished 16th out of 26 teams.

"We didn't place that well, but going in as a rookie team I felt that we did pretty well," said Grade 11 student Cody Williams, who is returning to the club this year.

He said the lesson he learned last year was to keep the design simple.

"[Ours] was fairly simple compared to a lot of [other teams]," he said. "At first, a couple of things didn't go right after we did our test rounds, but together we were able to come up with solutions that did work."

The club has yet to learn what the competition will be this year. FIRST will disclose the nature of the game, which changes each year, on January 3-4. The teams then have six weeks to design and build their robot.

"Last year we were testing the waters, figuring out what we could and couldn't

do," said Betty Paton, a Grade 10 student. "This year, we do know what we're doing and know we'll need to practice driving the robot and how we'll need to build it. We'll all be a lot more collected."

Although the team can't start building yet, they're still hard at work.

"So far we don't know what the game is going to be that we'll have to build the robot for, but we're planning for fundraising and winning 3D printers," Paton said.

Fockler said it costs the club \$5,000 U.S. to sign up for FIRST's North Bay competition. They received \$4,000 from the Trillium Lakelands District School Board this year to get them started, but they're looking for community sponsors to help with the costs.

Last year, it cost the team \$10,000 total for registration fees and parts. They also sent 14 students to North Bay for the competition, which includes a three-night stay in a hotel. Fockler said any leftovers from fundraising after fees and parts will help subsidize the trip for students.

For more information or to sponsor the club, contact Jackie Mayhew at jackie.mayhew@tlds.on.ca.

Read the Johannessen's winning essay at HighlanderOnline.ca.

Highlander events

Showdown winner nets \$1K

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

They bumped, jostled, ran, and grabbed on their way through the Thrift Warehouse, but in the end only one of the three shoppers could be victorious.

Instead of looking for deals, these shoppers were trying to grab the most expensive items for their carts during the Shopping Cart Showdown on Nov. 29. Dave Brooman, Lynda Litwin and Carol Simmons were selected by draw for the contest, each competing to bring home the top \$1,000 prize.

Second prize was a \$150 pre-paid Visa card and a \$100 Thrift Warehouse gift card, while third received a \$125 Thrift Warehouse gift card.

"The event was a blast," said store manager Cammy George. "I consider it successful. This fundraiser was a wonderful marketing campaign."

Shoppers were asked to buy tickets for the draw during the month of November. The three contestants had their names drawn and earned the right to compete.

Brooman went in with a game plan and executed it to perfection, collecting \$1,153 worth of items in his cart and taking first place by a landslide. Simmons finished second with \$363, and Litwin collected \$190.

While George didn't have the total amount raised as of press time, she said money will go towards SIRCH programs to support the residents of Haliburton County.

"I can say that the Thrift Warehouse Shopping Cart Showdown raised awareness of the Thrift Warehouse as well as SIRCH Community Services programs in the community," she said.

The event wouldn't have been possible without the community's support.

"I am thrilled with the community participation and support throughout this fundraiser," said George. Local businesses throughout the county supported us by selling tickets and allowing us to sell in their stores."

Minden Foodland not only lent the store shopping carts, they also delivered them to the Thrift Warehouse. Into the Blue Bakery provided pizza on event day at a reduced cost, and Abbey Gardens lent a big tent as well. Tim Horton's donated coffee and supplies.

"The Shopping Cart Showdown fundraising committee did a wonderful job and the SIRCH and Thrift Warehouse staff and volunteers did a great job letting the community know about the fundraiser and selling tickets," she said.

George is not sure whether or not it will become an annual event.



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Dave Brooman hoists his \$1,000 cheque after winning the shopping cart challenge.



Photos by Mark Arike

Top: Every seat in the Haliburton United Church was full for The Stars of Christmas concert on Nov. 30. Above: Members of the Highlands Festival Singers celebrate the Christmas season through song.

Festival Singers bring Christmas joy to audiences

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

The Haliburton United Church was at capacity on Nov. 30 for a festive performance from the Highlands Festival Singers.

About 60 members of the mixed-voice choir, led by Melissa Stephens and accompanied by Lauren McInnes, took

centre stage in a concert titled "The Stars of Christmas." The group sang several Christmas songs, including Let It Snow, Silver Bells and All On a Starry Night. Throughout the show, singers provided concertgoers with information on the health benefits of singing and being part of a choir.

A second performance was held at the church on Dec. 2.



Cardiff lights its tree

By Matthew Desrosiers

It's officially the Christmas season in the town of Cardiff. On Nov. 29, the community came together at the giant dragonfly alongside Highway 118 for the lighting of the town's Christmas tree. The big tree is now lit, along with the dragonfly, for the duration of the holiday season. Families also came out to enjoy Christmas carols and hot chocolate.

Pictured left: Cardiff residents came out on a cold night to light the town's Christmas tree.

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COMPUTER sales & service. Set up, file transfers, software installation, virus infections, networking, continuous backups, emergency service available. Call The Computer Guy - Dave Spaxman - at 705-286-0007. WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS! (TFN)

FOOT CARE in your home. RN with certification in advanced foot care. Diabetic foot care, toe nail health, callous & corn reduction. Call Colette 705-854-0338 (DE11)

COTTAGE MEDIC home or cottage maintenance. Now offering spectacular cleaning services! Winter maintenance, renovations, repairs. Clean your gutters before winter! Call or text Cottage Medic: Cheryl and Geoff 705-854-0267 (TFN)

FOR RENT

TWO BEDROOM two bathroom apartment. Hwy 21, close to the Independent in Haliburton. References, First & Last. \$700/mth plus utilities. No pets, smoke free. Avail immediately. Call 705-457-2434 (TFN)

ONE & TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS Available February 1st, 2015. One bdrm \$690/mth, 2 bdrm \$790/mth plus ½ of utilities. Private entrance, situated in a nice quiet area of the country 8 KM North of Minden. Great for a working couple, retired couple, or Professionals. Call Gord or Beth 705-286-5076 (DE4)

COMMERCIAL SPACE 3,000 sq. ft. - Prime downtown location beside Haliburton Legion. Available immediately. Ideal for office space or small business For more information call Gary Thorpe at 705-457-2828

1200 SQUARE FEET Very clean space. Industrial Park, Haliburton. 16' Ceilings, 14' roll up door, mezzanine. 705-457-5508 or jdwalker@bellnet.ca

FOR RENT

SILVER BEACH CONDO 1100 sq ft. detached bungalow, garage, 2 bedroom, LP fireplace. \$1500/mth plus utilities. 705-457-5508 jdwalker@bellnet.ca (TFN)

FOR SALE



4 TOYO Winter tires on steel rims. Used one winter. 225/60 R16 \$400. Call 705-286-1369 (DE4)

SAVE MONEY!

Garbage removal, free for any re-sellable items or make a deal to buy furniture, boats, etc. One piece or entire contents, plus small building demolition and take away. 705-448-3920.

FOR SALE

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Township of Algonquin Highlands requires a Stanhope Heritage Day Event Coordinator

The Township of Algonquin Highlands welcomes applications for a temporary contract position for a Stanhope Heritage Day Coordinator.

Working with the Stanhope Museum Committee, the Stanhope Heritage Day Coordinator will use new and existing resources to organize, coordinate and promote the 12th Annual Stanhope Heritage Day to be held on Saturday, July 12, 2015.

The preferred candidate should possess the following qualifications:

- Excellent interpersonal, project management, organizational and communication skills.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel and email.
- Knowledge of, and connections to, the local craft and artisan community.
- Basic understanding of event promotion, advertising and social media.

Contract Value: \$3,000.00 (under review)

We thank all applicants; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Please submit your resume in confidence by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, January 16, 2015 to:

Angie Bird, C.A.O.
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Stone Road, Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1J1
705-409-2379 Ext. 222
Email – abird@algonquinhighlands.ca

Thank you

A heart felt thank you to all the staff at Hyland Crest for their care and support of my husband David Tilley.

Your compassion and professionalism was greatly appreciated by our family throughout David's time in your care. You truly made us all feel like part of your family. We will remember your kindness always. A special thank you to Dr. Kristy Gammon.

The Tilley Family

Highlander classifieds

FOR SALE

HUGE LIQUIDATION restaurant equipment, antiques, household décor items, power tools, tools, ice fishing gear, coffee tables. Made in Italy baby carriage, milk jugs...the list is long and varied. 143 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden 476-906-4862 Cash only. Everything must go!! 9am - 6pm Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun. (TFN)

FOR SALE

2003 PETERBILT 379. 870,000 km. Frame sandblasted and painted. NEW rad, front drives, king pins and batteries. Webasto heater. \$32,900 certified. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097. (DE11)

2003 FORD F250 Super Duty Diesel. 420,000 Km. Runs perfect. New tires, brakes. Will only need some body work to certify. \$2,399 705-286-2900 after 5:00p.m. (TFN)

2001 BUICK REGAL Runs well. Well maintained. New brakes, exhaust. Needs tires to certify? 705-286-2900 after 5:00p.m. \$695 or Best offer. (TFN)

ONAN Gas generator 4.5kw. Suitable for standby or motorhome. \$1600. Call 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097 (DE11)

BLIZZACK SNOW TIRES 2, 235X65 R17. No rims. \$200. Call 705-286-4333 (TFN)

NOTICES

HIGHLAND STORM PARENTS: Please have all raffle tickets turned in before Dec. 8th. Draw will take place Dec. 8. Drop off boxes located at Minden and Haliburton Arenas or to any Highland Storm Executive. (DE4)

HELP WANTED

PART TIME CLEANING service. Must have a car and pay close attention to detail. Please call 705-489-2158 (DE11)

EXPERIENCED LINE COOK. Maple Avenue Tap and Grill. 3 days per week, PM shift 4-9pm. Call 705-306-0964 to discuss resume. (TFN)

LOCAL BUSINESS requires part time person. Interest and knowledge of the food industry, computer skills, sales and marketing. Can progress to full time. Wages will reflect knowledge and capabilities. Drop resume to Box 662 Haliburton, ON, K0M 2S0 (Dec8)

EVENTS

VON Smart Exercise Program. Tuesday's 11:00am - Hyland Crest, Thursday's 1:00pm - Echo Hills. Call Carol for more information 705-457-4551

EVENTS

PARKINSON'S DISEASE SUPPORT GROUP Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month. 1:30-3:30 pm. Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team education room. October 8, November 12; December 10. Call Dave Graham 705-457-1296 (TFN)

CAREERS

CAREER IN REAL ESTATE - Unlimited income potential. Flexible hours. We will train you to make an above-average income in this exciting business. Call for details. Bowes & Cocks Limited, Brokerage. Kate Archer, Broker/Career Coach Direct Line: (705) 930-4040. (TFN)

NOTICE



NOTICE

The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East extends an invitation to all residents of Highlands East to attend the upcoming Inaugural Ceremony to welcome their new Council members!

Stay and enjoy a light luncheon at 12:00 noon at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce.

Date: Tuesday, December 9, 2014
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Location: The Lloyd Watson Centre, 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce

The regular council meeting will commence at 1:00 p.m. after the luncheon.

Irene S. Cook, CMO
Clery/CEMC
2249 Loop Road, Box 295
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0

OBITUARIES



In loving memory: Katelyn Ewing

Suddenly, peacefully in her sleep, at her parent's home in Haliburton, on Thursday, November 27, 2014. Our beautiful, loving, caring angel is now at peace with the Lord but has left a hole in the hearts and souls of her family and friends. Survived by dad John, mom Louise, sister Jennifer (Chris), nephews Tyler and Lucas, uncles Bruce (Patricia) and Ron (Leslie), cousins Nicole (Greg), Colin, Connor, Cullen, Theresa (Rob), Sarah, Robyn, Sharon and David and her amazing friends who continue to reach out to support our family and each other. Predeceased by her grandparents John & May Ewing, Lorraine & Bruce Owtrim, aunt Anne Littleton (Alan) and her very special aunt Mary Breuls.

A Memorial Service will be held in Haliburton at the Bonnieview Inn on Monday, December 8, 2014 at 1:00 PM with visitation one hour prior.

Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Point in Time Centre For Children Youth and Parents, 69 Eastern Ave, Haliburton K0M 1S0, 705-457-5345 or a charity of your choice.

OBITUARIES



Catherine Harrison (Resident of Norland, Ontario)

Peacefully at Peterborough Regional Health Centre with her family by her side on Friday afternoon, November 28, 2014 in her 78th year. Beloved wife and best friend of Rod Harrison for over 50 years. Loving mother of Sharon, David, Brian (Diana), Christine, John (Louise), Suzanne (Paul Sharpless), Jean and Jane (Steve Mantle). Lovingly remembered by many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dear sister of Lou Marles, Denna White and Ada Fisher. Predeceased by her brothers: Russell, Walter, David, and sisters: Anne Goode and Sheila Lake. Also lovingly remembered by many nieces, nephews and by her many friends. Catherine will be remembered as the Mother Hen of the Community. She had a very giving nature and generous spirit which will be missed.

Visitation, Memorial Service & Reception

Friends are invited to call at PIONEER BAPTIST CHURCH 7553 Hwy. #35, Norland, Ontario on Thursday morning, December 4, 2014 from 10 o'clock until time of Memorial Service at 11 o'clock. Interment later Pine Grove Cemetery, Norland. As expressions of sympathy donations to the Peterborough Regional Health Center - Intensive Care Unit or Pioneer Baptist Church Norland would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME 6644 Hwy. #35, Cobocok, Ontario (705)454-3913.



www.communityfuneralhome.com



In loving memory of Wendy Louise Campbell

Passed away peacefully at the Haliburton Hospital on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the age of 57.

Beloved daughter of Ada and the late H. Douglas Campbell. Dear sister of Patricia and John. Fondly remembered by her extended family in Ottawa, Toronto, Delta, Brockville and Calgary.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden on Friday from 4:00 pm until 6:00 pm. A Service to Celebrate Wendy's Life will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 11:00 am. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family).



www.gordonamonkfuneralhome.com

Highlander classifieds

WITNESS TO AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT OF DECEMBER 21, 2012

Location: Gelert Road (formerly Country Rd 1), approx. 1/2 km. south of the Vick Road.

Details: The accident was caused by a large white transport truck straddling two lanes at high speeds. My wife was driving a blue Honda CRV (SUV crossover). She crashed into the ditch. She has brown hair, was wearing glasses and a black jacket.

Who: We are seeking the witness who was an older gentleman driving a light colour older model SUV. He helped my wife immediately following the accident.

Contact: Anyone who has knowledge of the accident or was witness to the accident please call collect, Toronto 416-648-9185.



HELP WANTED
Township of Algonquin
The Township of Algonquin is seeking a permanent full-time position for a Chief Financial Officer. The successful candidate will be responsible for the financial management of the Township, including budgeting, accounting, and financial reporting. The position requires a minimum of 10 years of experience in a similar role and a degree in Finance or Accounting. Interested candidates should submit their resume and cover letter to: Human Resources, Township of Algonquin, 100 Main Street, Algonquin, ON K7R 8K9. Applications will be accepted until December 15, 2014.

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Is Rogers dropping your calls?

Do you make calls with your cell phone that seem to connect but nobody can hear you?

Does your phone ring and nobody's there?

Rogers wants to hear from customers who have these types of problems in Haliburton County.

Please send an email describing your experience to: rogersproblem@haliburtonhighlander.ca

Please provide:

Your phone number and an example of a number you tried to call that didn't go through, including date and time.

EVENTS

Looking for a Family Doctor?

An invitation to residents of Haliburton County and surrounding area, to come to our clinic at 7217 Gelert Road, 1st Floor family health team suite, and sign up with one of five physicians taking new patients. Residents who have been on the wait list are also invited to attend and sign up!

WHAT: Please bring your valid Ontario Health Card

WHERE: 7217 Gelert Road, Haliburton, ON 1st Floor in the Family Health Team Suite

WHEN: Starting the week of December 1, 2014, Monday to Friday 8 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm

WHO: All residents without a local primary healthcare provider (parents or guardians may sign for children under the age of 16, but we still need their Health Card information. Children 16 and over must sign themselves)

If you have any questions, please call Kim Robinson at 705-457-1212, extension 368.

We look forward to seeing you!

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING AND SALE BY-LAW

File No. RA-13-01

TAKE NOTICE that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to pass a by-law to stop up and close certain portions of an old travelled road which has since been relocated and was formerly known as County Road No. 20 in the Geographic Township of Minden, now in the Township of Minden Hills, in the County of Haliburton, more particularly described in Schedule "A" hereto.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the Corporation of Township of Minden Hills proposes by the aforesaid by-law to authorize the sale and conveyance of the said portions of road or interests therein which are closed at a consideration to be determined by By-Law of Council and subject to Council declaring the lands to be surplus.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the proposed by-law will come before the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills for consideration at its regular meeting to be held at the Township's Municipal Office, 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario on the 11th day of December, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. and at that time Council will hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected by the by-law or who comments on the proposed disposal.

DATED: November 27, 2014

Ian Clendening
Planner

SCHEDULE "A"

Part of Lot 10, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden, now in the Township of Minden Hills, County of Haliburton, designated as Part 1 and 24 on Plan 19R-9888.

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HIGHLAND GLASS & Windows

It's never too early to think about spring projects. In fact, the best time is now.

Whether you're planning a home renovation or new construction, the experts at Highland Glass & Windows are ready to help you get started on your dream project.

Highland Glass & Windows has been serving the community since 1983. The full-service glass shop provides consulting and broker services for complete window and door projects, from retro fit to design built homes and cottages. They also do commercial projects, hotels and resorts.

No matter what your spring project calls for, Highland Glass & Windows has you covered. They distribute and install doors, ranging from French Chateau style to folding wall systems, patio doors, and French doors. Window options include casement, double hung, swing, slides, and tilt and turn.

Sometimes the biggest challenge in a renovation or new construction project is knowing what your options are.

The friendly staff at Highland Glass & Windows are available for consultation. They will make sure you have all the information you need to make the right choice for your home.

Don't wait until spring to get started. Give yourself the time to do it right and realize your dream. Visit Highland Glass & Windows today.

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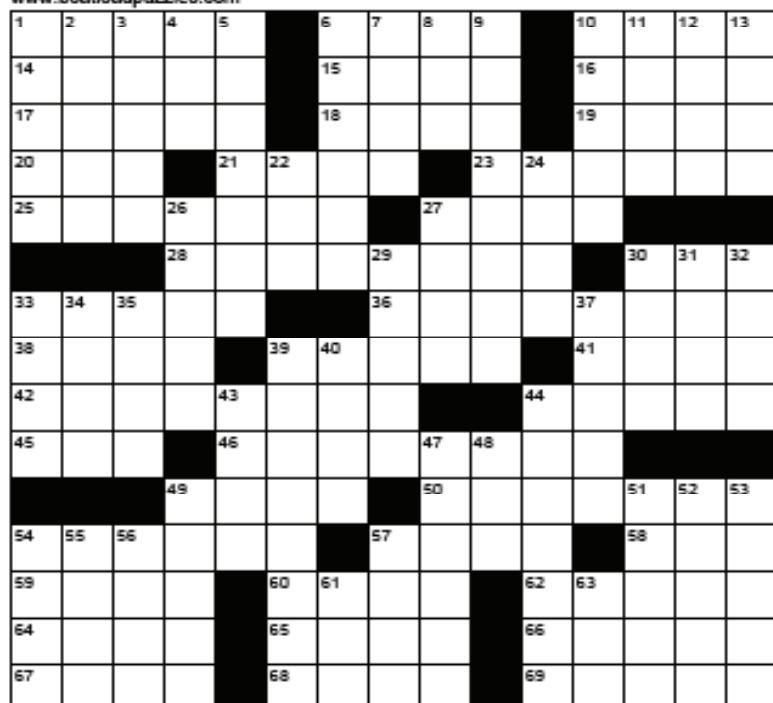
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Events calendar

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ACROSS

1. Woman's title
6. Roadsters
10. Inner hand
14. Spry
15. Double-reed instrument
16. Operatic melody
17. ____ beef
18. Songstress ____ McEntire
19. Bottomless
20. Country hotel
21. Ages and ages
23. Annoy
25. Unpleasant sight
27. Distribute
28. Prize
30. Quiche ingredient
33. Female singers
36. "The Texas Chainsaw ____"
38. Dime, for one
39. Dickens title beginning (2 wds.)
41. Leg front
42. Undertaking
44. Gleamed
45. Sandra ____ ("Gidget")
46. Aversion
49. Pod vegetables
50. Fire ____ (fire chief)
54. Firstborn
57. Ditty
58. Age
59. Marsh grass
60. Face shape
62. Anticipate
64. Peruvian Indian
65. Stir up
66. ____ code
67. Refrigerate
68. Religious order
69. Passover feast

DOWN

1. Singer ____ Osmond
2. Pain
3. Keaton or Sawyer
4. Capone and Roker
5. Crater makers
6. Eye part
7. Fortas and Lincoln
8. Stick up
9. Unusual fish
10. San Diego athlete
11. Location
12. Fibs
13. Atlas entries
22. Miner's quest
24. Pub potables
26. Pebble
27. Twofold
29. Intelligent
30. Yodeler's feedback
31. Big smile
32. Actor ____ Hackman
33. Served perfectly
34. ____ wolf
35. Ocean current
37. Fire residue
39. Pilots
40. Hurl
43. Fruit beverages
44. Small rivers
47. Talisman
48. ____ Francisco
49. Piano part
51. Listened to
52. Get up
53. In a while
54. Funnyman ____ Idle
55. Comedian Jay ____
56. Art ____
57. After-bath powder
61. Strive
63. Sadness

DECEMBER 2014 EVENTS

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Minden Hills Bid Euchre Minden Community Centre 1 - 4pm Pickleball - Haliburton HHSS 7 - 9:45 pm BOOK LAUNCH for LONELY LAKE Agnes Jamieson Gallery 10:00 am - 5:00 pm \$3.00	Scott Woods Christmas Tradition Archie Stouffer Elementary School 7 - 9 pm \$25 Club 35 Bid Euchre Club 35 7 pm - 10 pm	Holiday Fun Day - Minden Hills Oultural Centre 12 pm FREE Cookie Walk - Haliburton United Church 10 am - noon Sanat's Workshop Craft Sale - Lloyd Watson Centre, Wilberforce 9 am - 2 pm	Christmas Fayre - Kinmount Legion. A great variety of vendors, lunch, country raffle, Christmas musio etc. - FREE 11am - 8pm Yoga, Meditation and Writing Flow - Blue Sky Yoga 10 am Free
04	05	06	07
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Club 35 Tai Chi Classes - Dorset Recreation Centre 12 pm - FREE Minden Hills Table Tennis Minden Community Centre 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm \$3. Haliburton Scottish Country Dancing J.D.Hodgson Elementary School Gym 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm \$3		Minden Hills Pickleball - Minden Community Centre 9am -12pm - \$2 Dorset Yoga Classes - Dorset Recreation Centre 10am -11am \$2 Dorset African Hand Drumming Class - Dorset Recreation Centre 11:30am - 12:30pm \$10	Minden Hills Bid Euchre Place: Minden Community Centre 1pm - 4pm \$3 Pickleball - Haliburton HHSS 7 - 9:45 pm Carl Dixon's Annual Christmas Pageant - McKecks Tap & Grill 7pm-10:00 pm \$20.00 Donation to the Foodbank
08	09	10	11
FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Club 35 Zumba - Club 35 9:30-10:15 Fee is \$40 for 5 week Session or \$15/class drop in. Club 35 Bid Euchre - Club 35 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	YesterYule Yummies 11am - 2pm Twelve Mile Lake Historical Church Chambers Rd Wrap it Up - Student Art Exhibition Haliburton School of the Arts 12 pm Free	Wilberforce Santa Claus Parade 12:30 pm, followed by treats and visits with Santa for the kids Lloyd Watson Center	Club 35 Tai Chi Classes - Dorset Recreation Centre - 12:00 am - Free
12	13	14	15
WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR LEGION DEC 4 - DEC 10, 2014			
Haliburton Branch General meeting, 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Ladies Auxiliary, last Thursday, 1 p.m. Meat draw, Friday, 4:30-6:30 p.m. \$2/draw. 50/50 draw, Saturday, 4 p.m. Breakfast, 2nd and 4th Sunday, 9:30-1 p.m. Bridge, Monday 1 p.m. Bid Euchre, Wednesday, 1 p.m. Bingo \$500 jackpot, \$1,000 jackpot on last Wednesday of the month	Minden Branch Lunch menu, Monday - Friday, 12-2 p.m. Seniors "B-d" Euchre, Tuesday, 1 p.m. Meat Draw, Wednesday, lunchtime. Creative Crew, Thursday, 10 a.m. Ladies darts, Thursday, 1 p.m. Euchre, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Fish/Wings & Chips, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Mixed darts, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Sports Fan Day, Sunday, 12-4 p.m.	Wilberforce Branch L.A. Meeting, Thursday, Lunch 11:30 a.m., Meeting 1 p.m. - Pool, Friday, 1:30 p.m. Baked ham, scallop dinner, Friday, 5-7 p.m. Jam session, Friday, 7:30 p.m. Everyone welcome! Meat draw, Saturday, 2 p.m. Wildlife Dinner, Saturday 5-7 p.m. Bid euchre, Monday, 7 p.m. General meeting, Tuesday 7 p.m. Fun darts, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. ** No karaoke until further notice	

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Highlander events

Variety show delivers for Fuel for Warmth

By Mark Arike
Staff writer

It had all the makings of an entertaining variety show – from comedy to live theatre to dance and music.

Combine all of that with two hilarious hosts and a cause that touches the lives of several county residents and you've got a recipe for success.

On Nov. 29, over 200 people filled the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion for the first Highlands Christmas Shindig. The event raised \$4,600 for Fuel for Warmth by way of ticket sales, raffles, and donations for snacks and refreshments.

"The financial result showed it was a success, but more importantly I think the other measure of success was we felt we were part of an old-fashioned community variety show," said Mike Jaycock, who transformed himself into a colourful diva for the night from England by the name of Dame Beatrice. Joining him on stage was Lorraine McNeil as Elf.

The show featured performances from Shout Sister Choir, Highlands Little Theatre, Joy Jam, Brigitte Gall, Heritage Ballet, Gord Kidd, and Carl Dixon.

The idea for the variety show was one that began percolating last winter after McNeil saw a YouTube video of Jaycock performing as Dame Beatrice – a character loosely based on Barry Humphries's Dame Edna.

"She said we should do something," recalled Jaycock. "We should have a show and include people from the community."

Jaycock said one of his main objectives was to be as inclusive as possible, by including a cross-section of performers from the Highlands.

"We wanted young people, we wanted



Photo by Mark Arike

Elf (Lorraine McNeil) and Dame Beatrice (Mike Jaycock) make their stage debut in Haliburton during the inaugural Highlands Christmas Shindig on Nov. 29.

musical groups, we wanted some comedy, some little theatre."

Once the community caught wind of what the two had in mind, they didn't hesitate to help out.

All of the performers and stage crew donated their time, and the show was sold out more than a week in advance.

McNeil and her husband, Lorne, paid for the expenses associated with the event, such as the rental of the theatre and insurance.

"We never took anything out [from what was raised] to pay back anyone," said McNeil, explaining that all of the proceeds would be donated to Fuel for Warmth, a charity that helps local families in need heat their homes during the winter.

The jovial McNeil said she learned about Fuel for Warmth when one of its organizers,

Joanne Barnes, came on a radio program she hosts with Jaycock on Canoe FM. Since then, she has heard unsettling stories of residents burning their own furniture to heat their homes.

"If we can help out in some way, then let's do it," she said.

"We thought nobody should have to go cold in Haliburton County."

Both Jaycock and McNeil were overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the community.

"Even when we ran out of tickets for draw prizes, people were still throwing money in," she said, adding "it just warms your heart."

A video production of the performances was put together by Sticks and Stones Productions for the residents of Highland Wood, Hyland Crest and Extendicare.

Elvis is alive and living in Irondale

By Matthew Desrosiers
Editor

People in Irondale and Gooderham are still talking about the night Elvis came to town.

"Everybody is still talking about it," said Carol Simmons, president of Bark Lake Cultural Developments. "We are happy with the turnout. Several people have asked that I consider offering this event on a yearly basis."

The event in question was a turkey dinner and 1950s-60s themed fundraiser that took place on Nov. 29. Arch Bishop Dorian Baxter, also known as Elvis Priestley, provided entertainment for the evening along with the Van Rosi band. They entertained from 7-10 p.m. that evening, then Baxter conducted the Sunday church service at the historic Irondale Church the next day.

Altogether, the event raised \$2,700.

"In early November we launched our Piece of the Puzzle campaign," said Simmons. "All donations and/or fundraising between November and July 2015 will go towards paying down our mortgage [on the Irondale Church]. The mortgage is at \$95,000, so we have a tad bit of work to do."

There is a picture of the Irondale Church that is covered by puzzle pieces. For every



Photo by Matthew Desrosiers

Reiner and Barbara Arnold renew their marriage vows with Elvis Priestley.

\$500 raised, a piece of the puzzle is removed, slowly exposing the image behind.

"Before Saturday's event we had already been able to remove seven pieces from monies raised in November," said Simmons. "Now we will be able to expose more of the picture by removing another six pieces."

The Robert McCausland Community Centre

in Gooderham was full, with around 135-140 people in attendance for the dinner and show. Baxter, in costume, sideburns and all, took the stage and ran through Presley's career, starting with his early music and working through to the end.

In the middle of the show, Baxter paused to perform a marriage vow renewal ceremony.

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Haliburton Highlands Palliative Centre

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\$700,000

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\$500,000

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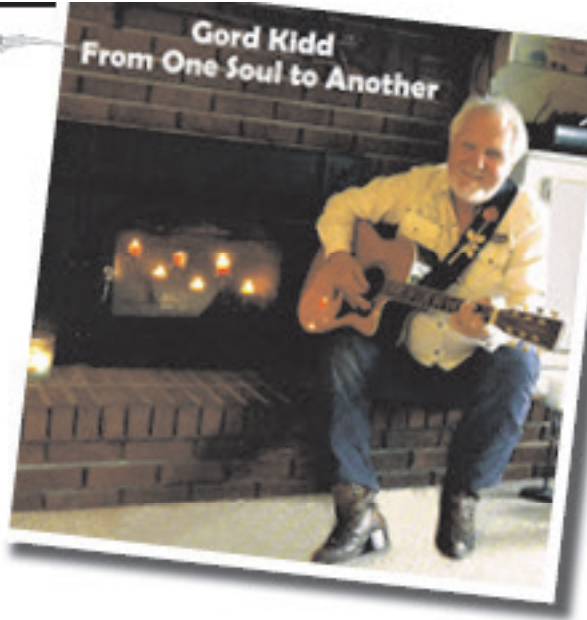


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Many donations have already been made and will continue to be: Haliburton Folk Society; Fuel for Warmth; Haliburton County Food Banks; HHHSF; Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary; The Great Haliburton Feed Co.

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 Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavillion in Haliburton



What's on



File photo

Rebecca Kidd and Brooke Stevenson dance on stage during the 2012 performance of The Nutcracker.

Annual favourite The Nutcracker is back

By **Matthew Desrosiers**
Editor

Tickets are going fast for this year's production of The Nutcracker, put on by Heritage Ballet's Julie Barban.

This year's show promises to be a unique twist to the now-annual Haliburton tradition, with more children involved in the production than ever before.

"We have 71 kids in the show this year,"

Barban said. "Wow. That's a first."

Barban said it definitely makes the show more "cute".

"It's made my snowflake scene a lot younger than it normally is," she said. "We have 33 snowflakes, but 25 of them are under 10."

Including adults, there are 80 participants in the production.

"Some of our adults come from past years, like Tim Nicholson and Jack

Brezina. They're all back. And a few dads and moms."

This is the 11th year for the Christmas show, and while Barban said she loves to do it, it is a lot of work for her.

"I have always loved [The Nutcracker]," she said. "I love the music. I love working with the kids, but it is a lot of work. Maybe the older I get, it is getting a bit harder."

Despite that, Barban said the show will

go on.

"It's become a real community event too, and I feel people expect it now. I can't imagine not doing it."

"I love it."

Tickets for the show are on sale now for \$15 at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and Minden Pharmasave. The Nutcracker hits the stage at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

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